

Oslo to extradite Iranians to Russia

OSLO (R) — Norway's justice ministry decided on Tuesday to extradite to Russia three Iranians who hijacked an Aeroflot airliner to Oslo last year. "A firm attitude towards plane hijackings has reduced the problem in recent years," Justice Minister Grete Faremo said in a statement, adding that extradition was in accordance with international practice. The three men, aged 20, 28 and 35, used grenades and a fake bomb to seize the Russian airliner with about 50 people on board on Sept. 15 last year. The plane was on its way from the Azeri capital Baku to the Russian town of Perm. The hijackers forced the pilot to fly to Norway. They gave themselves up without injuring anyone after five hours of negotiations at Oslo's Gardermoen airport. The three men, who said they wanted to make a protest against human rights abuses in Iran, applied for political asylum in Norway.

Grenade wounds 4 Israelis in Bethlehem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Four Israeli soldiers were lightly wounded in a hand grenade attack on Tuesday in the still-occupied West Bank town of Bethlehem. The sources said the grenade was thrown into the courtyard of the local Israeli occupation headquarters.

Mubarak, UAE leaders meet in Geneva

GENEVA (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak held an unannounced meeting on Tuesday with the president of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahayan, diplomats said. They said that among the subjects the two had been expected to discuss was the future administration of the new Palestinian self-rule areas and the status of Jerusalem. The meeting follows talks between Sheikh Zayed and Palestinian Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat in Geneva on Saturday, which were said to have focused on the financing of the administration of Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Iraq blames U.S. for car-bomb

NICOSIA (AP) — An official Iraqi newspaper on Tuesday blamed "partisans of President Clinton" for a bombing that killed a child and wounded 13 other people in Baghdad. Monday's car-bomb exploded near the offices of Al Jumhuriya newspaper, according to the government's Iraqi News Agency (INA). The agency quoted Al Jumhuriya newspaper as saying: "We do not expect Clinton to denounce this crime for two reasons. The first is that the criminals are from the partisans of the American president, who carry out the orders of his agents and intelligence apparatuses." The second reason is that "the American president is personally responsible for bigger crimes which are being committed against the Iraqi people, at the top (of this list is the embargo," the newspaper added.

Algerian socialists refuse part in talks

ALGIERS (AFP) — The Algerian socialist party Tuesday rejected appeals to join talks between the military-backed government and five opposition parties on the country's future. The Socialist Forces Front said it did not trust President Liamine Zeroul's government to back the democratic parties in the talks. Mr. Zeroul on Monday invited the five opposition parties taking part in talks to meet leaders of the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in prison to persuade them to give up the armed struggle against his regime and accept talks (see page 12).

Iraq invites team to check for prisoners

JAKARTA (R) — Iraq has asked Indonesia's President Suharto to form an international team to investigate claims that Baghdad is holding 600 Kuwaitis captive, the official Antara news agency said on Tuesday. The invitation was addressed to Mr. Suharto in his capacity as head of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). Iraq has been accused of capturing the Kuwaitis during its 1990-1991 occupation of Kuwait but has long denied the claim. "Members of the fact-finding team should represent Arab countries, Asia, Europe, Africa, South America and Russia," Indonesia's special envoy to NAM, Alamsyah Ratu Periwangraha, quoted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as saying during their talks late last month.



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Jordan made 'specific' proposals to update economic pact with PLO

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan has given the Palestine National Authority (PNA) "specific proposals" on ways to conduct future economic and monetary relations which the Kingdom hopes will be studied by the Palestinian side ahead of the next meeting in early September. These proposals, a senior official told the Jordan Times, although not in lieu of an economic accord between the two sides, were in fact elements that Jordan wants to see incorporated into the agreement so that it would be upgraded to a more technical and serious level. He did not reveal the details of the proposals.

from the Palestinian side, "They arrived with a new conciliatory tone that was apparently a result of dealing with the reality on the ground in the occupied territories," one official told the Jordan Times. Privately, officials add, Palestinian delegates "did not have all the economic knowledge to conduct the kind of technical negotiations that were needed before any agreement can be reached and signed." "This is why we have given them written and specific proposals which can be studied by the Palestinian economists and we will hopefully be able to discuss them in more detail during the next meeting," the official said. During the two-day meetings, according to the Jordanian officials, many of the Palestinian questions and grievances were addressed "hopefully satisfactorily."

One of the Palestinian delegation's main concerns, according to sources, was Jordan's "dealing with the Palestinian self-rule authority as if it is only in charge of Gaza and Jericho and not an authority that would expand to cover the whole West Bank."

This grievance is apparently in reference to the Kingdom's agreement with Israel to export \$30 million in consumer goods to the West Bank areas outside the self-rule authority. "We realise that this must be upsetting to them, but it is necessary for us to do that because this is what their own agreement with Israel has produced," a senior official said. "We told them that we can only deal with the development on the Palestinian front stage by stage," he added, explaining that the reason Jordan had to gain the permission of Israel to export ceramics, for example, "is because the Palestinian self-rule authority cannot provide Jordan with an import licence or open the entry points for Jordanian exports."

Jordan-Israel border commission in north

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel and Jordan opened negotiations Tuesday over a border dispute in the northern Galilee, one of several key issues that have to be overcome before a peace agreement could be signed. The talks centre on a small, fertile crescent of land totalling less than 10 square kilometres. It is just south of the Sea of Galilee, reports said. The land in question, bordered by the Jordan and Yarmouk rivers, is cultivated by a kibbutz. The talks follow a non-belligerency declaration signed in Washington July 25 by Israel and the subsequent opening of a border crossing near the Red Sea ports of Eilat and Aqaba on Aug. 8. The 46-year formal state of war between them meant the border was never demarcated. Jordan is claiming some 380 square kilometres in farm and desert land currently under Israeli control. The Jordanian demands for its land and greater access to water resources abutting the border are the most difficult issues in the negotiations.

Pakistan has atomic bomb, ex-premier Sharif says

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Pakistan's former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said Tuesday that his country has nuclear weapons. Mr. Sharif, speaking to a public rally at Neela Butt in Pakistan-controlled Kashmir, said he would confirm Kashmiri leader Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan's statement that "both Pakistan and India have atomic bombs." The government's stand to date has been that Pakistan has the ability to manufacture nuclear weapons, but it has decided not to make one — a position also voiced by Mr. Sharif during his rule. Mr. Sharif, who was in office for two and a half years until he resigned in 1993 amid a political crisis, warned India against launching a nuclear attack against Pakistan. The independent Pakistani news agency Pakistan Press International (PPI) quoted him as saying: "I confirm that Pakistan possesses an atom bomb." He also disclosed that during his rule, the Pakistan government had given large sums of money to a religious political party for aiding the "jihad (holy war)" in the Indian-controlled southern two thirds of Kashmir.

PNC members, activists step up campaign against Arafat's efforts

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Nearly 60 members of the Palestine National Council (PNC) on Tuesday joined mounting opposition to Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's efforts to convene a PNC meeting in Gaza and amend the PLO charter. The names of the 59 members of the PNC were among the 171 signatories to a statement issued here rejecting Mr. Arafat's call and declaring that Mr. Arafat no longer had any authority to act on behalf of the Palestinian people.

Other signatories included members of the Palestine Central Council, former members of the PLO Executive Committee, union leaders, heads of PLO factions opposed to the Israeli-PLO autonomy deal and independent Palestinian activists. The statement was the strongest response yet to Mr. Arafat, who has committed himself to amending clauses in the PLO charter calling for the elimination of the state of Israel.

The commitment, which was made when the PLO and Israel recognised each other in September in the run-up to the signing of the landmark accord of Palestinian auton-

omy, was renewed by Mr. Arafat during a June meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Paris. PLO sources have said that any Israeli redeployment of forces from the West Bank and Palestinian elections to a self-rule council as part of the autonomy accord was contingent on amendments to the charter. Informed PLO sources said many other members of the PNC did not sign the statement simply because they did not want to be seen as officially associated with the "opposition."

"Many members are not opponents of the (autonomy) accord reached in Oslo, but they do oppose convening the PNC in Gaza while the Israeli occupation of the land is still continuing," said one source. "They would not attend such a meeting," said the source. "But they are willing to attend a PNC meeting if convened outside the Palestinian territories in any Arab country where a total reassessment of the present Palestinian situation could be made and suitable decisions could be taken."

The statement issued here on Tuesday said: "The agreements that Yasser Arafat reached with the



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali is seen off upon his departure for the U.S. on Tuesday by Interior Minister Saleh Hamad (right) and Minister of State Abdul Baqi Jammoh (Petra photo)

Negotiations have natural ups and downs — Majali

Every point was covered in talks with Palestinians, premier says before flying to U.S.

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali said Tuesday the speed of progress in the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations varies from time to time and that he thought that the negotiations were blocked at any point in time was wrong. In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, before departing to the U.S., Dr. Majali said Jordanian-Israeli negotiations on any issue, no matter how simple, would consume much efforts and time. "In fact we discuss basic issues thoroughly and this

takes time, especially when discussing the border and water issues, because it is important to have full agreement between the Jordanian and Israeli sides on these issues to resolve them," he said. He said that when a negotiator states that no progress was achieved on one day, "the press will make it as if the whole negotiations are stumbling."

He said it was natural to have negotiations progressing or facing obstacles and it is the duty of the negotiator to remove these obstacles. "Some time ago people thought that the road was blocked as if we were doing nothing but normalising relations (with Israel). This is a flagrant mistake because in fact we are discussing principal issues and because they are principal they take time."

Israelis wound two in Gaza amid PLO law and order moves

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers guarding a Jewish settlement on the autonomous Gaza Strip shot and wounded two Palestinian teenagers, one of them seriously, hospital sources and witnesses said Tuesday. The soldiers opened fire when youths from Khan Yunis camp threw stones at watch-towers near the Neve Dekalim settlement. Merfag Abdul Qader, 18, was shot in the arm and was in serious condition in hospital. Samer Abdul Rahman Hassan, 14, was released after treatment. More than 44,000 Palestinians live in the sprawling Khan Yunis camp which is surrounded on three sides by an Israeli army base guarding 11 settlements.

Meanwhile, the Palestinian attorney-general said Tuesday that four police officers allegedly responsible for the death under torture of a Palestinian detainee will be tried in civil court next month. Attorney-General Khaled Al Qudra said the four officers face unspecified prison terms for the beating death of Rafah resident Farid Al Jarbua during interrogation. "The four officers will be tried at the start of September," Mr. Qudra said in a telephone interview from his Gaza office.

The accused officers were freed a month ago on bail. The trial announcement came after another volatile week in Rafah, where a Palestinian police officer was arrested after shooting dead a 16-year-old boy from a rival clan during an altercation. The beating death was the first after the Palestinian police took over self-rule in Gaza in May and is considered a test case of the Arafat administration's commitment to democracy (see page 2).

Israel, PLO reach deal on taxation and budget

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) clinched agreement Tuesday on the last issue holding up the extension of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank, PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath announced. "We have agreed on taxes and the budget," he said. An agreement on finance was the remaining obstacle following agreements on transferring powers in health care, social welfare, tourism and education. The two sides would now hammer out the details of a global document setting out the principles of an early transfer of powers in all of the five spheres.

"We are going to finish this track of the negotiations tomorrow (Wednesday)," opening the way to the second phase of Palestinian autonomy, he said. Dr. Shaath said the trans-

fer of powers in education started Sunday and would be completed in time for the start of the new school year on Sept. 1. He said the two sides were still working out a timetable to transfer powers in the other four areas, allowing Palestinians to run their own affairs in the West Bank. The talks opened here Monday at a Cairo hotel with both sides pledging to work all out to reach a deal by the target signing date of Wednesday. Palestinian self-rule was launched in the Gaza Strip and Jericho with the signing of the May 4 accord in Cairo. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said the accord which was being finalised was a "very important step."

Palestinian authority faces test in preventing blood feuds

RAFAH (AFP) — Faithful to bedouin tradition, the family of a 16-year-old boy recently killed in a clash with Palestinian police initially refused to bury his body.

Only after senior Palestinian officials promised a speedy investigation did the elders take possession of the boy's body, instead of first killing a member of another bedouin family in revenge.

In its first serious test case, the new Palestinian National Authority (PNA) may face a tough task in enforcing the law and preventing blood feuds among families tied to ancient traditions.

Shaer was killed Saturday night after police stopped a "group of youngsters during a search for criminals. A fight broke out and the police fired in the air and at random, fatally wounding the teenager."

Palestinian police said he was killed by "a group of youngsters during a search for criminals. A fight broke out and the police fired in the air and at random, fatally wounding the teenager."

"It's true that tribal traditions are important," Mr. Qudra said.

"But the people also have faith in the law."

Under the pre-1967 Egyptian law in force in the autonomous Gaza Strip the death penalty can be applied for premeditated murder.

Mohammad Al Shaer, an uncle of the dead teenager, argued that it would be "impossible to make peace with the guilty family."

"We now have a pact, a waiting period until the guilty

person is executed according to Islam and our law.

"The killer must be executed, or people will start shooting and taking the law into their own hands," he warned.

It was not the custom among the bedouin to bury the body "until someone, anyone, from the guilty family has been killed," he explained.

The tradition of blood feuds was suspended during the 27-year Israeli occupation to avoid internal strife and undermining Palestinian resistance.

"Our young activists used to mask their faces and warn people not to shed blood, and we used to reconcile opposing families."

"But that has finished now. We have our national authority and we want a public trial and a public execution," Mohammad Al Shaer said.

The Shaer family claims to have 40,000 members in Gaza and its nomadic lineage goes back a long way.

He settled in Rafah and became urbanised but still "reverts to their old customs, their influence in Rafah was evident when more than 12,000 people turned up at young Shaer's funeral Monday."

There were angry scenes Sunday when hundreds of people marched on the house of the Palestinian policeman they believed shot the youth.

The family of 1st Lieutenant Musa Abu Samahdana, who is being held for questioning in the case, also has a bedouin background.

Although much fewer in number than the Shaer, the Abu Samahdanas have a reputation for toughness, acquired during the intifada.

They executed more than 30 alleged collaborators with Israel, according to witnesses.

At least three of the family members, including Musa, are now in the Palestinian police and intelligence forces.

Both families trade accusations of drug dealing, prostitution and collaboration with Israel.

"During the intifada, our family was in charge of safeguarding morals here," said Sulaiman Abu Samahdana, a brother of Musa.

In the name of Fateh Hawks, loyal to Yasser Arafat, "we used to beat some people, put them under house arrest and kill them if necessary," he said, adding that many of those "punished" were from the Shaer family.

But Abu Samahdana laughed off any possibility of vendetta killings.

"We never killed on a personal level, always as Fateh Hawks."

"If everyone takes revenge on us for the killings, there will be no more Abu Samahdanas left."

He insisted his brother Musa was innocent.

"If there is an open trial and enough evidence to implicate him, we will accept the court's decision."

"But if they pass a sentence just to satisfy the Shaer family, we will reject it," he said.



LEBANON-CYPRUS TIES: Cyprus Foreign Minister Aloxios Michaelides (left) shakes hands on Tuesday with Lebanese President Elias Hrawi in Beirut. Mr. Michaelides was on the second day of his official visit to Lebanon. (AFP photo)

Diplomats in dark in Egypt-Sudan dispute

CAIRO (AP) — Sudanese and Egyptian diplomats have a dim view of each other these days. Cutting electricity to each other's embassy has become the latest tactic in a diplomatic battle.

Diplomats on both sides also reported that they have no running water and few telephone lines.

The utility duel is the latest episode in the deepening rift between Egypt and Sudan that involves a land dispute along with allegations of terrorism and mistreatment of diplomats.

Sudan's embassy in Cairo has been without electricity and water since last Thursday, diplomats told the Associated Press as they sat in their hot, dark quarters.

"This is an escalation and retaliation," said Ibrahim Matar, the Sudanese consul.

"We have a problem."

The telephone operator at Egypt's embassy in the Sudanese capital Khartoum said the building had been without light and water since Sunday.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) said that electricity and water also had been cut to Egypt's defence office in Khartoum.

In recent weeks, both sides have filed formal protests about diplomats being roughed up on the streets.

And Cairo has complained that Sudan has confiscated a number of rest houses used by agricultural teams, homes used by teachers and the Egyptians' social club in Khartoum.

Hassan Gad Al Haq, Egypt's ambassador to Sudan who currently is here on holiday, called for an end to the tit-for-tat incidents.

"If there were any differences between the two countries, they should be solved within a framework of understanding," Mr. Haq said.

"We should solve our problems in a civilised manner."

He said there were no plans to reduce Egypt's diplomatic presence in Sudan and added that a planned Egypt-Sudan soccer match would be held as scheduled Sept. 5 in Khartoum.

Relations between the neighbouring countries began souring during the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, in which Sudan backed Iraq while Egypt participated in the U.S.-led coalition that liberated Kuwait.

Freed prisoners see Jericho as new jail

JERICHO (AP) — The self-rule enclave of Jericho in the West Bank may hold out the promise of freedom for some, but for one group of Palestinians released by Israel, Jericho has come to resemble a new prison.

Abdul Jabbar Ahmad Daud was freed from Israeli detention last week, but he is still unhappy.

"It feels like being transferred from one cell to another bigger one. I don't feel the joy of liberation," Mr. Abdul Jabbar explained, pacing up and down the school yard serving as the former prisoners' new home.

He was among 250 detainees released on condition that they completed their sentences inside the 52-square-kilometre self-rule area.

"My family came to visit yesterday, but they went back to Hebron soon after. We hardly have enough room ourselves to sleep here," he said.

Another former prisoner, Fathi Gaith, complained that up to 15 were sleeping to one

room, "in suffocating heat."

Lacking privacy, the former prisoners have found that the school yard is the most practical place to meet their families.

Defying the overcrowding, Um Mahmud, wife of Kamel Kamhawi, spent the night in the school yard with her five children so as to be close to her 45-year-old husband.

"Our joy is not complete since my husband cannot go home" to Nablus, another West Bank town, she said.

But she acknowledged that the Palestinian Authority was treating the prisoners' families well during their stay, giving them food and mattresses.

At the entrance to the school an armed Palestinian guard takes the papers of visitors and returns them when they leave.

Most of those formerly held in Israeli jails were charged with killing suspected Palestinian collaborators, and the authorities want to prevent revenge attacks by the victims' families.

Red tape and tension hamper Kurdish rule

ANKARA (R) — Tension between feuding factions in northern Iraq and bureaucratic red tape in the de-facto Kurdish government have led to deep fissures in the local administration, spokesmen for the Iraqi Kurds said.

"In the 1992 elections the outcome was a 50-50 balance of power, which was necessary at the time," said Saffee Dizayee, Ankara representative of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP).

"That worked when everybody, including international media, focused on us," he said.

"But now the system has virtually collapsed with all the bureaucracy and red tape involved."

The English-language Turkish Daily News quoted an Iraqi Kurdish official as saying: "The (50-50) scheme resulted in duality in administration, duality in military set-up, duality in all forms and thus created bottlenecks."

Reports of new clashes at the weekend among the top two factions and Islamic militants underscored the tenuous hold of the local government, a power-sharing deal between the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).

Iranian radio said "heavy casualties" were inflicted in fighting in the Qala Dizeh region. There was no independent report on the number of casualties.

Mr. Dizayee said Iraqi Kurds looked to elections, due in May, for a realistic shift in power and a more streamlined government.

The PUK's Ankara spokesman denied the system had collapsed.

"The system is not so fine," said Shazad Saib. "There are unsolved problems. But it has not collapsed — I deny that. If both parties are very sincere this can work."

Kurds took control of much of northern Iraq after Western forces provided protection following the 1991 Gulf war. In 1992 they held elections, setting up a regional government with the KDP and the PUK sharing power.

But the last two years have witnessed much strife between the two groups in power as well as Muslim militant factions.

The parties said on June 23 they had resolved their dispute after talks in Paris, but Mr. Dizayee reported more sporadic fighting.

Bethlehem to have first Palestinian Christmas

BETHLEHEM (AP) — Palestinians will be in charge of Christmas celebrations in the city where Jesus was born for the first time this year, the Israeli and Palestinian tourism ministers said Monday.

"This Christmas will be under the Palestinian authority," Israeli Tourism Minister Uzi Baram told reporters after meeting with Elias Freij, who doubles as Palestinian tourism minister and mayor of Bethlehem.

"We would like to celebrate Christmas this year under the flag of peace," Mr. Freij joined in. He added that he was considering inviting world leaders to Bethlehem for the event.

It would be a sharp contrast to recent years, when Mr. Freij led efforts each year between 1987 and 1992 to shut the city of 30,000 down at Christmas because of the Palestinian uprising, and Israel's tourism ministry did its best to bring in Christian pilgrims.

Mr. Baram said that the Palestinians would have control of tourism as part of the "early empowerment," the phase of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord during which Palestinian authority will extend from the self-rule areas in the Gaza Strip and

Jericho into the rest of the West Bank.

The Palestinians are due to assume control of education throughout the West Bank this week, and Israeli and Palestinian teams in Cairo were working out transferring responsibility for health, education and welfare to the Palestinians by the end of the year.

The final stage will be the transfer of police power in major West Bank population centres to the Palestinians, due to take place in 1995.

Mr. Freij said that tourism will be a major source of income for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We want to be able to build a successful tourist industry," he said.

Mr. Baram said that a joint Israeli-Palestinian committee would meet next week in order to coordinate Bethlehem Christmas celebrations.

"We have to work together on promotion, marketing and infrastructure," he said. "We must do things in order to improve and to change the celebrations in Bethlehem."

Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen have already joined in planning joint regional ventures, and Israel signed a tourism agreement with Jordan last week.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lebanon's Maronite cleric buried

BEIRUT (AP) — Maronite Catholic Cardinal Antonios Butros Khreish was buried Monday, eulogised as a man who sought to stifle the sectarian divisions that caused the 1975-90 civil war. Khreish, Lebanon's highest-ranking Maronite cleric, died Friday of natural causes aged 87.

He was the only cleric with a Vatican-bestowed cardinal's rank among the one million-strong Maronite community, Lebanon's largest Christian sect. Khreish reigned as patriarch of Antioch and the entire Orient during the first 10 years of the war, in which the majority Muslims rebelled against the Maronite dominance of power. About 150,000 people perished in the conflict, which ended with equal apportioning of power between Muslims and Christians under an Arab League-brokered accord.

Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir, who succeeded Khreish as head of the Maronite Church in 1985, led the prayers and funeral procession Monday at Bkirki, the traditional hilltop seat of Maronite patriarchs north of Beirut. President Elias Hrawi, a Maronite, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, a Sunni Muslim, and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, a Shiite Muslim, attended the funeral along with scores of cabinet ministers.

S. Arabia to set up ties in East Europe

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia is to establish formal diplomatic relations with Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic and boost ties with other Eastern European countries, the Saudi Press Agency said on Monday. It said the council of ministers approved a Foreign Ministry proposal to form diplomatic ties with the three countries and appoint non-resident Saudi ambassadors. The council also formally recognised Slovenia, Croatia, Slovak Republic and "other Eastern European nations recognised by the kingdom to give them the opportunity to open embassies in Riyadh if they so desire," the agency reported.

UAE nationalises university management

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday appointed a local director for the state university as part of a campaign to nationalise its foreign-dominated workforce, the official news agency WAM reported. Hadeef Rashid Al Dahiri, a Western-educated professor, was named chief administrator at the Emirates University, the first UAE national to take up that post since the institution was established in 1976. Four other UAE nationals were appointed his deputies in line with a decision issued by the university's president, Sheikh Nahayan Ben Mubarak Al Nahayan, who is also minister of higher education and research. "The university is receiving its first national director as it enters a new stage of development by reaping the fruits of its efforts to prepare national elements to occupy key posts," Sheikh Nahayan was quoted as saying.

Australia to reopen embassy in Beirut

CANBERRA (AFP) — Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating announced Tuesday that his government would reopen an embassy in the Lebanese capital Beirut, closed 10 years ago because of fighting. "The government has decided to reopen the Australian embassy in Beirut, and to reopen it by June 1995," Mr. Keating told reporters here. Mr. Keating said the government believed the security situation had improved in Beirut although it was by no means perfect. He did not name an ambassador.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Tao Tao
17:30	N.B.A. sport
18:30	News in French
18:45	Le Journal De L'Histoire
19:00	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Bob
21:10	The Nature of Things
22:00	News in English
22:20	The Nanny
23:10	Folkart
PRAYER TIMES	
04:37	Fajr
06:00	(Sunrise) Duha
12:38	Dhuhr
16:16	Asr
19:17	Maghrib
20:39	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweith, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assiut International Church Tel. 625256	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulfinch supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Temperatures are expected to drop with clouds appearing at low altitudes and winds westerly moderate to active in Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	19/31
Aqaba	26/38
Deserts	17/34
Jordan Valley	24/37
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33 Aqaba 40, Humidity	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

readings: Amman 23 per cent, Aqaba 20 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Mukhlis Mazabrahi	820425
Dr. Mustafa Harzallah	683583
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim	682575
Dr. Youssef Rasheed	896301
Fires pharmacy	661912
Fordows pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairouth pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644943
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
Nairouth pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
IREB:	
Dr. Fayez Al Qadi	248743
Al Quds pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Khalil Abu Houssein	985000
Khalifah pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	199
Roscoe Police	192, 621111, 637777
Pir Brigadi	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Complaints	602800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Amman Municipality	897467
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (direct assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Repairs	661101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	660100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53300
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53300

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussien Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	6428146
Aldoh Maternity, J. Amn	6424112
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	6641714
Shmeisani Hospital	665131
University Hospital	843845
Al-Musheir Hospital	6672779
The Islamic, Abdali	66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali	6641646
Islamic, Al-Musheir	7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf	7751126
Army, Edmaria	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983523
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900660
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al-Hima Modern Hospital	(09)990990
IBRB:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275553
Great Catholic Hospital	(02)27275
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital	(02)947100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
09:30	Jeddah (RJ)
09:30	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
12:45	Larnaca (RJ)
18:25	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
18:25	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:35	London (RJ)
18:25	Istanbul (RJ)
19:10	Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
19:25	Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:25	Rome (RJ)
06:40	Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
01:20	Beirut (RJ)
01:20	Cairo (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
11:10	Damascus (AZ)
11:25	Larnaca (CY)
11:30	Yemen (TY)
11:30	Jeddah (SV)
13:45	Cairo (MS)

HIJAZ RAILWAY

TRAIN

Dep. Amman	8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus	5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus	7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman	5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upplower price in fils per kg

11:15	Amman, Jordan	Rome (RJ)
11:25	London, New York	Rome (RJ)
11:35	Berlin	Rome (RJ)
12:00	Tunis, Casablanca	RJ
12:40	Istanbul	RJ
20:30	Colombo	RJ
20:35	Beirut	RJ
20:45	Aqaba, Cairo	RJ
21:05	Riyadh	RJ
21:10	New Delhi	RJ
21:30	Aden	RJ
22:40	Calcutta	RJ
22:30	Abu Dhabi, Dubai	RJ

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:45	Beirut, Paris	(AF)
09:15	Beirut	(ME)
12:10	Rome	(AZ)

to have
n Christm

Jericho into the
West Bank.
The Palestinian
assume control of
throughout the
this week, and
Palestinian teams
were working on
ing responsibility
tion, health and
the Palestinians by
the year.

The final stage
transfer of police
major West Bank
centres to the Pa
due to take place
Mr. Freij said the
will be a major
income for Palestin
West Bank and Ge
"We want to be ab
a successful tourist
be said.

Mr. Baram said
Israeli-Palestinian
would meet next
order to coordina
lehem Christmas
tions.

"We have to work
on promotion, mark
infrastructure," he
must do things in
improve and to ch
celebrations in Be
Israel, Jordanie
Palestinian business
already joined in a
joint regional ventu
Israel signed a touri
ment with Jordan le

Dr. Adwan said his min
will provide every poss
support to the Palestin
authority to help it develop
tourist sites and facilities.

Mr. Ismail handed a me
to Dr. Adwan from
Elhas Freij, the Minister of
Tourism in the Palestinian
authority.

Also Tuesday, representa
tives of the Jordanian Travel
and Tour Agents Society and
the Higher Council for the
Tourism Industry based in
Jerusalem, discussed industry
related issues with Ministry
of Tourism Assistant Secre
tary General Abdul Ilah Abu
Ayyash.

Dr. Abu Ayyash said that
tourism constitutes the first
sector to be tackled in the
peace process and stressed
the importance of coordina
tion between the two sides in
countering the grave chal
lenges facing the region so as
not to turn the tourism mar
ket on both banks of the
Jordan River into a marginal
one.

"We hope that this meet
ing will acquaint us with the
touristic attractions in Jordan
and the Palestinian self-rule
areas and will help us to
exploit them in the optimal
manner through preparing
policies to market these
attractions abroad," said Dr.
Abu Ayyash.

He said that a study is
currently being conducted to
define locations which will
host touristic projects in the
Dead Sea area, noting that
there is a three-year plan to
develop the ancient city of
Petra.

Society President Nicola
Sabanech said that time was
ripe for coordinating tourism
activities between the sides,
particularly in unifying laws
and statutes and preparing

joint marketing programmes.
The two sides, he added,
should also work on improv
ing services on their borders
and study the possibility of
participating in international
fairs and reducing customs on
the tourism industry.

He said peace, security and
stability are basic factors in
developing tourism, adding
that well-studied marketing
policies were also important,
and he stressed the need for
the Jordanians and Palesti
nians to work on them.

President of the council
Hani Abu Dayyeh reviewed
at the meeting obstacles fac
ing tourism in Palestine and
stressed that tourism in the
occupied territories is an in
tegral part of Jordan's
tourism.

He said the council was
currently studying means of
developing tourism in the
Palestinian self-rule areas.

He said the Palestinians
are seeking to develop the
Dead Sea area as a health spa
and the Jerusalem and Beth
lehem areas as religious and
cultural sites.

Minister of Tourism and Antiquities
Mohammad Adwan Tuesday meets in his
office with Bajis Ismail, the executive
director of the Higher Council for the
Tourism Industry in the Palestinian self-
rule authority (Petra photo)

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Tourism Industry in the Palestinian self-
rule authority (Petra photo)

Visiting envoy reiterates Russia's support for Jordan's peace moves

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Russian envoy held talks here on Tuesday and reiterated his country's support for Jordan's moves in the Middle East peace process and called for strengthened trade and economic relations between his country and the Kingdom.

Viktor Posovalyuk, a personal representative of President Boris Yeltsin, also described the Syrian and Lebanese tracks as an essential element of the peace process.

Mr. Posovalyuk, who arrived here from Syria on the third leg of a Middle East visit, made the comments in a meeting with Acting Prime Minister Thounqan Hindawi, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

"Russia welcomes the Washington Declaration (between Jordan and Israel) as a positive step and considers it as a major move towards ending the Arab-Israeli conflict," said Mr. Posovalyuk, head of the Middle East and Africa Department of the Russian Foreign Ministry.

Petra said Mr. Hindawi and Mr. Posovalyuk re-

viewed the latest developments in the peace process. Mr. Hindawi said that the Russian official, who was scheduled to leave for Washington and subsequent meetings in the Jordanian-Israeli track of the peace process as well as other tracks as "blocks in the structure of a comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

Mr. Hindawi and the Russian official, who was scheduled to leave for Israel early Thursday, also reviewed bilateral relations and stressed the need for increased trade and economic relations between Jordan and Russia.

Diplomatic sources said there were no outstanding issues between Amman and Moscow, and the problems related to a debt settling agreement the two sides signed in 1992 were resolved.

The 1992 accord had called for settling Jordan's debts to the ex-Soviet Union which Russia inherited partly in cash and partly in goods.

However, Russia is keen to increase its exports to Jordan.

After two years of mostly haphazard trade — when Russian entrepreneurs used to dump Russian products in the international



Acting Prime Minister Thounqan Hindawi Tuesday meets with special Russian envoy Viktor Posovalyuk (second from right). The meeting was attended by Russian

market at cutthroat prices — the government of President Yeltsin is keen to launch organised trade with all countries.

Such issues were not expected to have been discussed in detail during Mr. Posovalyuk's visit here since the official is more involved with political issues than economy and trade, diplomats noted.

Mr. Posovalyuk, whose

country co-sponsors the Arab-Israeli peace process with the United States, visited Lebanon and Syria before arriving here.

One of the key themes of his talks in Beirut and Damascus was a reaffirmation of the Russian role in the peace process, which is effectively guided by the United States. Another was a Russian effort to convince Lebanon and

Syria to drop their boycott of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process.

Also expected to have been discussed during his talks in Damascus was Syria's military debt, worth \$10 billion, to Russia. Reports said Moscow and Damascus were looking at a formula to settle the debt and renew Russian military cooperation with Syria.

Minister, Indian envoy review peace process

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of State Talal Al Hassan Tuesday reviewed the latest developments of the Middle East peace process with visiting Indian Foreign Secretary K. Srinivasan.

Mr. Hassan voiced Jordan's concern for establishing a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the region, saying that progress on the Jordanian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli tracks will give a boost to the negotiations on the other tracks.

The minister stressed that Jordan will not sign a peace treaty until progress is achieved on the other tracks and until all details and issues of interest to all parties involved are agreed upon.

Mr. Hassan praised India's supportive stand towards Arab causes and lauded the

unique Jordanian-Indian relations in all fields.

Mr. Srinivasan praised His Majesty King Hussein's wisdom and courage, saying that India supports the signing of the Washington Declaration.

He described the declaration as the right step on the path of achieving a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the region.

The Indian official praised bilateral relations between his country and Jordan, saying that India is one of the largest importers of Jordanian phosphates and fertilisers.

Mr. Srinivasan presented Mr. Hassan with an invitation from his Indian counterpart to visit India.

Also Tuesday Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nayef Al Haddid reviewed



Foreign Ministry Secretary General Nayef Al Haddid (second from right) Tuesday reviews bilateral relations with Indian Foreign Secretary K. Srinivasan

with the Indian official bilateral relations and the latest developments in the peace process.

The two meetings were

attended by Indian Ambassador to Jordan Arun Kumar Bodhiraja.

Later Tuesday Mr. Srinivasan left Jordan through the

Ramtha border post. In a departure statement, the Indian envoy described his talks with Jordanian officials as fruit and constructive.

University official wins first Boutros Ghali scholarship

AMMAN (J.T.) — Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Jordan Mohammad Maqusi has recently been selected as a winner of the first U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali Scholarship, according to a university statement Tuesday.

Dr. Maqusi was notified of his award in a letter from the chairman of the Foundation for the Support of the United Nations.

The foundation, which has headquarters in New York and Tokyo, was established in 1988 for the support of U.N. programmes and activities supporting community involvement and promotion of cultural projects.

In December 1993, the foundation established the Boutros Ghali Scholarship aimed at encouraging young world leadership for further involvement in U.N. activities and international cultural contacts.

The foundation has selected five winners of the



Mohammad Maqusi

scholarship, one from each continent. Dr. Maqusi, who holds a Ph. D. in electrical communications from New Mexico State University in the U.S., was selected as the first winner from the Arab countries and Asia.

Awards will be presented in special ceremonies to be held in Tokyo in early September.

The guest of honour at the ceremonies will be the U.N. Secretary General.

WHAT'S GOING ON

PLAY

★ Children's play entitled "Long Live the Dead Sea" at the Royal Cultural Centre on 18:00.

ART FESTIVAL

★ Festival of artistic works (including songs, plays, and an exhibition of various commodities) at the open theatre, the Royal Cultural Centre (5:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.).

EXHIBITIONS

★ Clothing and fashion industry exhibition at the International Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 847113).

★ Exhibition of abstract art by Ghaleb Nahl and Mohammad Yass at Alla Art Gallery (Tel. 639350).

★ Children's school needs exhibition at the Amman International Auto Exhibition, Airport Road (12:00 noon - 11:00 p.m.) (Tel. 714211).

★ Painting on copper exhibition by Mohammad Jundi at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).

★ Exhibition of painting by several Jordanian artists entitled "The Fact Between Paintings and Viewers As Viewed By Artists" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Amman Cultural Meeting opens

No love lost between writers, critics

By Angham Tamimi

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — To discuss the literary criticism movement in Jordan, the Third Amman Cultural Meeting was inaugurated by Minister of Culture Juma'a Hammad Monday afternoon.

"We are concerned with presenting creativity and literature in Jordan and linking them with the creative movements in the rest of the Arab World," said Mr. Hammad in his opening speech. "Our other target is to strengthen the relationship between the Arab men of letters."

According to the minister, talking about criticism proves the existence of literature, which deserves to be evaluated. It is literature that creates critics, he said.

"The Arab World has been deprived of its unity, each country has its own flag, national anthem, army, television and radio stations and sports teams, but should each country have its own separate literature?" asked Mr. Hammad. He said he hoped that literature and criticism would develop one Arab identity.

The minister asked the participants to present genuine Arab criticism which helps bury corrupted literary products. He also invited the audience to unveil all related gaps and defects, and pinpoint obstacles in order to enrich and improve the criticism movement.

Mahsin Mousawi of the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information talked on behalf of the Arab participants. He thanked the Jordanian government for exerting such a great effort to deepen the Arab cultural movement.

During the second session Jordanian critic Samir Qetami presented his research that dealt with the "Literary Criticism Movement until the 1950s".

In the eastern part of Jordan, and during the flourishing of the Emirate, said Mr. Qetami, several political and literary magazines and journals were established, such as Al Sharq Al Arabi in 1923, Al Jazireh Al Arabi in 1927, Sada Al Arab in 1927, Jordan in 1927, Al Anba' in 1927, Al Hikmah in 1932, Wafa' in 1938, Al Jazireh in 1939, Al Ra'id in 1945, Al Jihad in 1947, Al Ahd in 1947, Al Nisr in 1947, Al Haq in 1947, Al Hurrieh in 1948, and Al Yaqdha in 1948.

According to Mr. Qetami these publications played a major role in the political, cultural and intellectual life of those times. Their role was as important as other similar ones all over the Arab World, he said.

In addition, the poetry gatherings held during this period influenced the Jordanian literary movement, Mr. Qetami said.

Nevertheless, those three decades yielded no books, and for this reason, all the critics' viewpoints were published in journals and magazines, the most effective of which were Al Hikmah, Jazireh and Al Ra'id.

seemed to believe that the writer-critic relationship is not usually one of accord. Mr. Nahhas complained of not being understood by Jordanian critics. He accused the critics of belittling his writing because of his political and cultural stands.

"Critics tried to tell me how to write, what they liked me to write, or what criticism schools considered valuable, but in fact, most of them avoided reading my works," said Mr. Nahhas.

"I consider myself the first writer who revived the Jordanian literary theatre by producing works such as 'Those Years' and 'Elections', but no critic bothered to lay a finger on them."

In his presentation, Mr. Nahhas was careful to note that he was not referring to all Jordanian critics, nor to some of them, rather he was attacking the general trend of criticism. Later former Minister of Culture Mahmoud Samra, described Mr. Nahhas' presentation as honest and clear and reflecting the speaker himself.

attended by Her Royal Highness Princess Zein Bint Al Hussein, deputising for Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan, president of the (YWMA) (Petra photo)



ACROBATIC FUNDRAISING: Young Chinese acrobats Tuesday perform at the Sports Palace of Al Hussein Youth City to raise funds for the Young Women's Muslim Association (YWMA) projects. The function was

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Ukraine

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on Ukraine's national day. King Hussein wished Mr. Kravchuk continued good health and happiness and the Ukraine people further progress and prosperity.

Majali receives messages of appreciation

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday received three messages from the foreign ministers of Mexico, Norway and Romania expressing appreciation of Jordan's role in the Middle East peace process. They expressed joy over the Jordanian-Israeli agreement signed in Washington last month ending the state of war between the two countries. They said the Washington Declaration constitutes a basic step on the way to achieving peace and stability in the Middle East and stressed their countries' support for the peace process.

Meeting focuses on factory locations

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Taw-

fiq Kreishan Tuesday chaired a meeting of the factories committee charged with studying applications to establish factories and to ensure their appropriate location. Mr. Kreishan stressed the need for the committee to conduct comprehensive studies on the factories' locations, taking into consideration preserving the environment, agricultural lands and underground water. The committee was set up by the higher organisational council because of the lack of comprehensive organisation plans for the Kingdom's regions defining the uses of lands. The committee includes representatives of the ministries of Water and Irrigation, Health, Interior and Agriculture, as well as Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, in addition to the departments of Land and Survey and Civil Defence.

Arabian horse club elects panel

AMMAN (Petra) — The Constituent Assembly of the Arabian Horse Club Monday elected a new administrative committee, headed by Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein. The new committee includes Mohammad Anwar Saleh, who was elected vice chairman, Saleh Hamad, Issa Rimoni, Awar Al Sha'alan, Munayyad Dabbas, and Mohammad Fahmi Omari.

FAREWELLS: Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Tuesday receives Lebanese Ambassador to Jordan Ahmad Ibrahim on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty (Petra photo)

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Politics by proxy

THE JUST-ended meeting of the foreign ministers of Turkey, Syria and Iran in Damascus took a brave decision to renew the agreement on the need to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity by rejecting "certain extra-regional efforts" aiming to strengthen and consolidate the Kurdish position in northern Iraq. But by passing such a resolution, the neighbours of Iraq are merely expressing concern about their own Kurdish populations and in turn their own territorial integrity in the face of growing international support for certain Kurdish rights in the region.

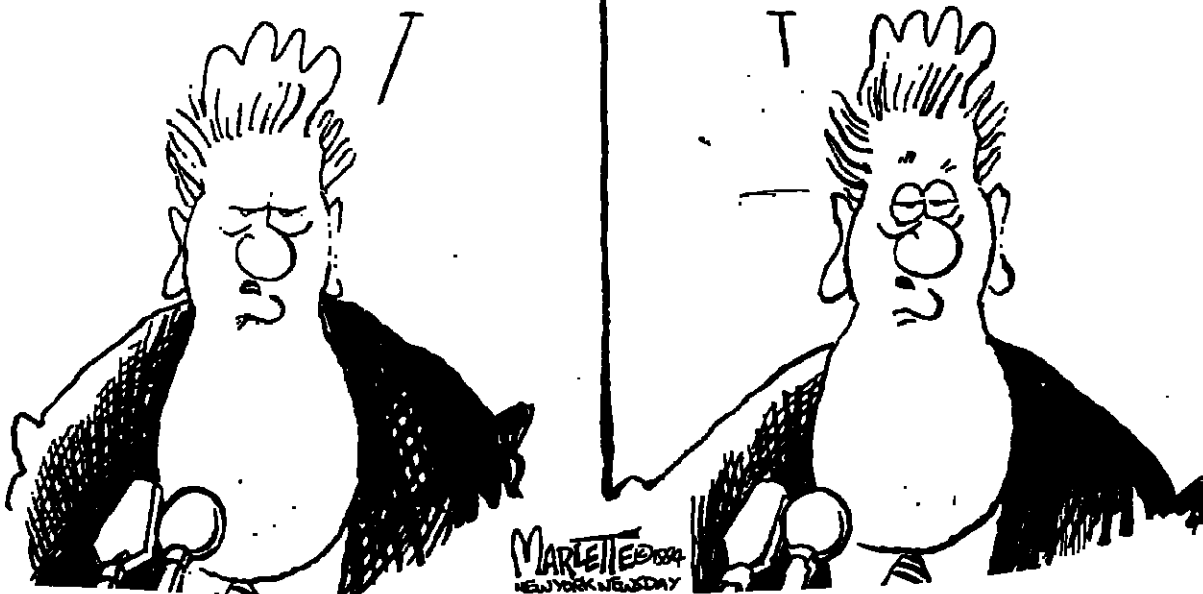
The recent Paris meeting held by rival Kurdish groups and representatives in Britain, France and the U.S. had a smell of attempted interference in the Kurdish question which Ankara, Tehran and Damascus saw as a prelude to the establishment of a Kurdish state in northern Iraq. The problem with the decision taken by Turkish Foreign Minister Mumtaz Soysal and Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and their Syrian counterpart Farouk Sharaa rests in the fact that it was adopted without Baghdad being present at the meeting. If there is a genuine concern about Iraq's territorial integrity, Iraqi authorities should have been the first to be present at the Damascus gathering. While professing rejection of all forms of interferences in Iraqi domestic affairs, the neighbours of that Arab state sought to do exactly the contrary by bypassing the very country that they wished to save from partition by the major powers. We think Iraq can no longer remain isolated from regional or extra-regional decision-taking processes. Ankara, Tehran and Damascus should have invited the government of Iraq to take its proper place at such an important meeting. It would not have been such a bad idea also if the PUK and KDP Kurdish factions in northern Iraq were also included in meetings which could determine their future. After all we are at the end of the 20th century and the policies of the past can no longer be viable.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Tuesday said that the Jordanian-Palestinian meetings which concluded in Amman Monday agreed on a mechanism to discuss issues of common interest that have become urgent for two reasons. The paper said in its editorial that the urgency of these issues resulted from the tangible unity between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples which makes it difficult for any political leadership to ignore or dismantle. The second reason, said the paper, is due to the acceleration of the peace process and the important issues the two sides have to discuss in the process and to coordinate their stands on. The two sides have shown keenness to activate a joint mechanism to discuss developments in the peace process and showed a high level of responsibility when they stressed the need to coordinate their coverage of the process so as not to allow others to undermine bilateral relations, said the paper. It noted that that was the reason why the concluding statement of the meetings did not mention topics that the two sides differ over. The Israeli media, meanwhile, was keenly interested in highlighting Jordanian-Palestinian differences in an attempt to distract attention from the main issue in the region, which is ending the Israeli occupation of all Arab lands, namely the Jordanian and Palestinian lands, the paper said. It added that Israeli manoeuvres to aggravate Arab differences and plant seeds of mistrust among them were not even stopped by the peace process which gave Israel more "fuel and flammable material to add to the fire of secession it was trying to plant." Al Ra'i said that these manoeuvres only work on those who do not realise the deep feelings of pan-Arab belonging to both Jordan and Palestine. It said the main job of Jordan and Palestine will always remain ending the Israeli occupation.

I'M SICK OF ALL THIS CRITICISM!
MY ADMINISTRATION HAS PUT
MILLIONS OF PEOPLE TO WORK !..

-GRANTED MOST OF THEM ARE
SPECIAL PROSECUTORS!



Washington Watch

By Dr. James Zogby

Clinton's long, hot summer

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton is in the midst of a long and hot crisis-filled summer. He is facing a wide range of challenges, the most important of which threaten his chances for success on some of the most key domestic issues on which he based his presidency: health care, crime and welfare reform.

Throughout the summer, public approval of the president's performance has followed a downward trend, dropping more than 15 points. It is telling that even in an area where Mr. Clinton has had success, the economy, he is receiving little public recognition for his efforts.

The White House continually reminds the press and the public that in less than two years, Mr. Clinton has passed a major deficit reduction package, created significant new foreign trade opportunities for U.S. businesses, restored investor confidence in the economy, and overseen an economic resurgence which has created 4,000,000 new jobs, sustained reasonable economic growth while keeping inflation down. Yet despite these achievements, recent polls show that most Americans express disapproval of the president's handling of the economy, and a plurality even feel that Republicans would do a better job of handling the economy than the president's Democratic Party.

And even lower than the public's approval of Mr. Clinton's handling of the economy, foreign affairs, health care and crime is their overall approval of the president. The most recent CNN/USA Today polls shows Mr. Clinton's overall approval rating at a low 39 per cent.

Critics correctly point out the president's contribution to his decline in the polls: a succession of public scandals, disarray at the White House, and the administration's penchant for "waffling" on issues. But the single most important reason behind the president's slide in the polls is a growing cynicism about all government leaders — whether Democrat or Republican — and government in general.

While President Clinton has recently been receiving more favourable press coverage, the constant criticism he has endured during the past two years has taken its toll. So has the incessant partisan sniping that has become the norm in political discourse in Washington. An equally damaging but less noted phenomenon undermining the president is the tone of ridicule which political commentators, newscasters and popular comedians use when discussing our political leaders.

This very same pattern of criticism, partisan sniping and ridicule that weakened George Bush's presidency, Mr. Clinton is the new victim and every fault of his, whether or not it is related to his performance in office, is fair game; although he wouldn't be exempt even if he were perfect.

The end result of this type of discourse is deep public cynicism which suggests that the U.S. is on a downward slide, that little can be done to correct "the mess in Washington," and that "those politicians in Washington" are not capable of doing the job in any case. Ironically, the need to restore hope to a cynical electorate was one of the major themes of Mr. Clinton's campaign. So it is especially hurtful for the president to see his leadership paralysed by his inability to combat public negativity.

This is more than a morale problem for the White House, however; it is a practical political problem as well. As public cynicism and disrespect for government grows, so does Mr. Clinton's ability to lead and influence legislators to support his programmes.

The president has become so politically weak that his very

identification with his own programmes has become a liability. For example, recent polls show that a clear majority of Americans support the type of health care reform that the president has called for. The public overwhelmingly believes that there should be universal health care coverage for all Americans and that employers should pay to cover their employees — two central features of the president's programme. But when asked if they support the Clinton health care plan, a majority says "no."

The president's political weakness not only poses problems for more than just his legislative agenda, but it has political ramifications as well. Several Democratic candidates in this year's Congressional elections have already advised the White House to "stay away" from their campaigns. This prompted one Democratic Party official to state: "We're aware that it is not in the best interests of some of our candidates to associate with us (the Clinton administration) and we understand this... if you want us to stay away, we'll stay away."

While these comments were, of course, quickly repudiated by the White House, they did reflect a widespread attitude among Democratic leaders and candidates who have come to fear that too close an identification with President Clinton will hurt their electoral chances in November.

The Republicans' strategy, as indicated by their behaviour during the recent voting on the crime bill and the debate over health care in the Senate, is clear: Obstruct the president's efforts to pass any legislation this fall.

The Republicans assume that if they can deny the president any legislative victories, they will even further erode his leadership, which they hope will improve their chances of winning control of Congress in the 1994 elections. In this effort they used stalling tactics and threats against any members of their party who break ranks to support the president.

But the Republicans' success in temporarily derailing the president's crime bill last week shocked the White House into action. The president has taken some steps to shore up his position, especially in preparation for this fall's Congressional elections. In his appeal to Democrats to support his position on the legislation, the president correctly observed that he needed Democratic votes "to save my presidency." Implicit in this appeal was a recognition that if the president loses the vote on the crime bill and is further weakened, the Democrats' chances to win their elections this fall will decrease.

In further effort to restore confidence, the president is engaged in a restructuring of the White House administration team. In this effort he has called on three respected Democratic party leaders: Leon Panetta (who moved from the position of director of the office of management and budget to become White House chief of staff), Tony Coelho (a former House majority whip who was assigned to the Democratic National Committee to assist in planning strategy for the 1994 elections), and Judge Abner Mikva (who will take over as White House Legal Counsel).

It is not clear how immediately these changes in operations will begin to have an effect on White House performance. Nor is it clear that they will succeed soon enough to secure passage of the crime bill and health care reform before the November elections.

What is clear is that the president is emerging from his long, hot summer with a "wake-up call" and a determination to fight to save his embattled presidency.

India, U.S. burying long-time antagonisms

By Nelson Graves
Reuters

NEW DELHI — When the United States ordered a quarter of a million Indian troops to be taken off shore shelves this month on the grounds that they could catch fire, American diplomats expected a strong reaction in New Delhi.

But an unruffled Indian government refused to shout foul. Instead it told exporters to win back the market by offering scientific proof the skirts were not excessively flammable.

"We had expected the usual grumblings about unfair trade barriers," a U.S. diplomat said. "But they didn't really come." Forty-seven years after India won independence, New Delhi and Washington are burying deep-seated antagonisms and forging a new relationship.

New Delhi's level-headed reflex in the skirts episode demonstrated the pragmatism that now surrounds Indo-U.S. relations, diplomats and foreign policy analysts say.

The mistrust, prejudices and ideological labels that kept Washington and New Delhi at arm's length throughout the cold war are giving way to a cautious willingness to strengthen ties.

"There is a warming of the relationship," said B.G. Verghese of the Centre for Policy Research in New Delhi.

The shift is closely related to the changed international landscape. During the cold war Washington considered India to be Moscow's client state. But that thorn has been removed with the disintegration of the Soviet Union.

Now that Soviet troops are out of Afghanistan and tensions have cooled in the Gulf, India's Western neighbour, Pakistan, no longer has strategic primacy for Washington, which for many years courted Islamabad with sophisticated weaponry.

Still, until recently Washington toed a hard line. "Strategic issues in 1992-93 were a huge strain on Indo-U.S. relations," said Bhabani Sen Gupta, executive director of the Centre for Research on International Change.

"There was a very strong U.S. emphasis on human rights, the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and missiles."

Then India opened up the disputed Kashmir region to foreigners and diplomats, set up a national human rights commission and, in early 1993, launched bilateral talks with Pakistan. Kashmir, however, still

remains largely closed to international human rights groups.

Mr. Gupta said India appears to have assured Washington that it is in no rush to develop its missile-launching capability, and the emphasis in non-proliferation circles has shifted to seeking a nuclear-free, as opposed to a nuclear-free, world.

As Islamic fundamentalism makes inroads in Algeria, Malaysia and Turkey, Washington looks to India — with the world's second largest Muslim population behind Indonesia — as a ballast.

But the deciding factor, according to Mr. Gupta, was India's far-reaching economic reform programme, launched in 1991, which has stoked U.S. hopes of cashing in on business opportunities.

India's economic potential looms even larger as some other Asian markets become saturated. India is also a hedge against the possibility of political unrest in China, Mr. Verghese said.

"India needs U.S. technology and the U.S. is interested in the Indian market and its possible stabilising role," he said.

The recent appointment of U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner to a post that had long remained vacant soothed New Delhi's pride.

Mr. Wisner quickly won plaudits from New Delhi when he said there was little hope Washington would deliver 38 F-16 warplanes that Pakistan had ordered because of opposition in Congress.

The Indian government then extended a valuable payment guarantee to U.S. giant Enron Corp, which is building a \$3 billion gas power plant in western India.

Last week Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao announced a new plan to pay Indian parents to pull up to two million children out of hazardous jobs and put them in school.

Charity groups said it was a clear response to a U.S.-led campaign to curb child labour in developing countries.

A U.S. diplomat said Washington had decided to tone down its criticism of India's human rights record and quietly prod India and Pakistan to settle their raging dispute over Kashmir.

A parade of U.S. officials including Defence Secretary William Perry are expected in India in early 1995.

"Instead of flying at each other's throats, India and the U.S. are willing to sit down and talk things out," Mr. Verghese said. "They can agree to disagree without being disagreeable."

French leave Rwanda — could they have done more?

By John Follain
Reuters

PARIS — As the last French soldiers in Rwanda packed their bags on Sunday, Paris defiantly applauded their two-month humanitarian mission in the face of critics who had questioned its motives.

French officials say they are satisfied with the achievements of Operation Turquoise and if the military mission did not stabilise the region that had not been its aim.

No French official is ready to rule out a new catastrophe — a new exodus of refugees or more inter-tribal violence.

A front-page cartoon in Le Monde summed up France's failure to ensure violence does not flare up again as the new government of the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) gradually takes control.

An unarmed French soldier boarding a jet turns to wag a finger at an RPF colleague, who has a gun on his shoulder. "We're agreed — no more genocide," the Frenchman admonishes.

With its U.N. mandate expiring on Sunday, Paris says it has pulled off a delicate operation and silenced critics at home and abroad who two months ago cast doubt on its motives.

The 2,500 French-led soldiers saved the lives of thousands, from both the Hutu and Tutsi tribes, thanks to a safe zone in southwest Rwanda and helped mobilise states which had done nothing as pro-Hutu militias unleashed a genocide of Tutsis.

In neighbouring Zaire, the French won praise for the often grisly tasks they carried out — piling the dead into mass graves, caring for refugees and supplying food and water.

When France went in, critics said Paris was acting with neo-imperialist motives to shield an ally, the discredited Hutu-led government of Rwanda. Today, some of those critics want French soldiers to remain.

"Many countries are asking us to stay, but it would be interesting to make a list to see how many of those refused to join us when we went in," said a senior military official, still bristling at the lack of support France had drawn.

"If there are so many appeals for us to stay, it's because our humanitarian mission went well," he said. But the presence of the French troops still risks being remembered as only a brief intermission in a series of woes to hit the African country.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has acknow-

ledged that "Turquoise has not stabilised the region". He told reporters on Friday, however, that this had not been the operation's aim.

The relief agency Medecins Sans Frontieres (Doctors Without Borders) said the soldiers were leaving "chaos" behind them. Medecins du Monde (Doctors of the World) said rearmament and aggressive pro-Hutu forces were still active.

It appealed to the U.N. force in Rwanda to widen its mandate so it could expel militiamen from the zone, establish a police force and arrest the authors of the genocide.

The seeds of a new outbreak of violence are buried in the camps in the form of pro-Hutu militiamen hidden among refugees.

The watchdog human rights Watch/Africa criticised France — one of the first countries to denounce "genocide" — for failing to detain those who carried out the killings.

Senior figures behind the genocide which claimed some 500,000 lives, are reported to have obtained refuge in Zaire from where they continue to fan ethnic hatred.

Several Hutu government leaders, including ex-prime minister Jean Kamukama, fled via the French-controlled safe zone.

"We told the U.N. all we know about the violence," the military source said. "We arrested people caught red-handed committing offences, but it definitely wasn't up to us to hunt for murderers and arrest them."

According to Paris, the ball is now in the court of the new Kigali government, which must demonstrate it can reassure its people and avert another refugee exodus.

The enduring hostility of the new Kigali rulers, with their repeated calls for French soldiers to pull out, played into the hands of French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur who was keen for the troops to pull out on time.

The U.N. force inherits a challenging task. French officials say there are 2.5 million residents and refugees in the "safe zone" against 1.9 million in the rest of Rwanda.

In the strategic power game, Operation Turquoise has shown France stands almost alone in the West as a country with the means and the will to intervene militarily in Africa.

Beyond the lives they undoubtedly saved, the French troops will have served to flesh out Mr. Balladur's ambition, which he repeated this week, for France not to be seen only as a "medium-sized power."

LETTER

A congenial forum?

To the Editor:

THE EXCELLENT idea of the "science week" held earlier this month in Amman was marred by a point of protocol. Large boards were placed in the auditorium marked "their excellencies the ministers" and "distinguished personalities of the realm." Further directive was obviously not necessary to indicate seating intended for those who did not belong into the above categories.

Islamic teaching and Arabic tradition are profuse with statements against any form of class distinction or privilege. "The public's master is their servant" is one of the more celebrated statements. "Civil servant" and not "civil master" is the usual designation of government officials in more sophisticated set-ups. But it seems that the habits surviving from the "centuries of darkness" carry greater weight in our society than those teachings and traditions.

A whole is made up of component parts and the atmosphere in which scientific research is debated is certainly one of the important components. The above procedure contributes to a pompous and unpleasant atmosphere.

Some of the readers of this letter will have experienced the environment in which conferences of similar nature are held in lands much more advanced in the field. It is usually free seating with highly distinguished researchers sitting next to students in all manner of casual dress including jeans and shorts! In fact that attitude contributes to a great atmosphere of learning as the implicit message is that the focus is on the quality of subject matter and nothing else.

Honour is then bestowed on those whose work has the highest quality and not through overbearing decree.

Dr. Omar Manna
Amman.

Jordan made specific proposals

(Continued from page 1)

see their meetings with each other as one aimed at addressing the mapping of a future that will reflect on the two sides equally.

"We told them we are not negotiating with them, we are only trying to do the things that have to be done," one official said.

But the more important result of the meetings, held after months of uneasy relations, was in laying the grounds and hopefully allaying the fears that have so far hindered Palestinian coordination with Jordan.

The fact that the members of the cabinet-level Palestinian delegation "were more politicians than economists" is because they appeared to be "assessing the political atmosphere ahead of a higher meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and President Yasser Arafat," one Jordanian official said.

The Palestinian delegation apparently had told the Jordanian side that they wanted final agreements to

be signed by Mr. Arafat himself. Because of this message, Jordanian officials believe a summit between the Jordanian and Palestinian leaders will only come after the joint committee paves the road for a successful visit, probably after the next meeting in September.

The Jordanian side believes that it might have been successful at laying to rest what they say are "unsubstantiated fears" towards Jordanian intentions whether over the issue of Jerusalem or on trade and banks.

"The overall feeling we got as Jordanian delegates to this meeting is that there is a lot Jordan can do to facilitate the task of the Palestinian self-rule authority," the senior official said.

"Also we feel that any difficulties they may have in handling their affairs, whether internally or with international donors, are problems that affect us as well and with which we have had experience, as a state, which we could impart on them," he said.

Negotiations have ups downs

(Continued from page 1)

"Furthermore, we should not be discussing those issues in the street. We should sit together and talk about them and try to find solutions to differences," he said.

He said these differences in views "do not mean that there is a conflict" with the Palestinians, and affirmed that every point of differences was discussed at the meetings which concluded Monday in Amman.

Dr. Majali, who was seen off at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister Thouran Al Hindawi, several Cabinet members, Jordanian Ambassadors in Washington Fayez Tarawneh and several officials, will deliver several lectures on behalf of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on the Middle East peace process and Jordan's role in it.

He said that it was imperative to preserve and highlight Jordan's good image in Arab and international intellectual arenas.

The premier will deliver lectures at the Rand Foundation and at the Los Angeles World Affairs Council.

The premier, in his comments to Petra, described Jordanian-American relations as good, pointing to Washington's writing off of part of Jordan's debts and asking other countries to reduce these debts.

Activists step up campaign

(Continued from page 1)

pan-Arab mobilisation to achieve the goals of the struggle and national liberation stage; and articles 20-26 which consider the Balfour Declaration and the (British) mandate pact null and consider Zionism as an imperial political, racist, expansionist movement.

"Therefore we have to affirm that if Mr. Yasser Arafat succeeds in illegally introducing amendments that he has committed himself to, only few procedural articles will remain out of the charter's 33 articles."

It said Mr. Arafat had no authority to represent the Palestinian people or act on behalf of the PLO or any PLO institutions. The statement noted that Mr. Arafat has not been able to convene a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee itself because of lack of quorum.

Among the signatories were:

— Ibrahim Baker, lawyer and former member of the PNC and deputy chairman of the Executive Committee;

— Ahmad Sedhi Al Dajani, PNC member and former member of the Executive Committee;

— Edward Said, professor at Columbia University;

— Assad Bayoud Al Tamimi, PNC member;

— Asma Khader, lawyer;

— Amin Qubba'a, researcher;

— Bassam Al Shakaa, elected mayor of Nablis;

— Bahjat Abu Gharbiya, PNC member and former executive committee member;

— Tayseer Khaled, PNC and Executive Committee member;

— Jamil Maraqa, PNC member;

— Jawad Younis, lawyer;

Israelis wound two in Gaza

(Continued from page 1)

ney general has enough evidence to try the four officers. It is a positive step," Dr. Ashrawi said.

Israeli security forces have arrested 12 Palestinians accused of belonging to the Islamic group Hamas, the army said Monday.

They were seized in Sunday night raids in two villages near the town of Jenin in the northern West Bank, an army statement said. It did not specify any charges against the men.

The arrests could affect the tense relations between Israel and the self-rule government, which is especially sensitive to Israel's continued jailing of Palestinians.

Some 4,500 detainees have been released since the onset of Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho in May, but several thousand remain in Israeli jails.

Five Israelis have been killed since the PLO took over the autonomous areas and Islamic fundamentalist groups were blamed, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has accused Mr. Arafat of not doing enough to stem such attacks.

The sides are currently negotiating the expansion of civilian aspects of autonomy throughout the West Bank as well.

The Palestinian police chief General Nasr Yousef said on Tuesday the PLO has put off issuing orders to arrest Hamas militants despite calls to end violence.

He said the PLO had its "reasons which are political and its own vision of things."

Until then the generals and Mr. Abiola were



Sifting through "second hand" clothing at a downtown Amman clothes stall (File photo)

By Adrian D'Ambra

AROUND THE suburbs of Australian cities, near railway stations and beside supermarket carparks, stand the large metal collection bins of the Salvation Army and the Brotherhood of St. Laurence. They are like giant posting boxes with shutters big enough for people to push their bags of unwanted clothing through.

The brotherhood bins — a generic name covering all agencies — achieved a sad infamy some years ago when it was realised that they were being used by homeless street kids as a place to crash for the night.

These were just some of the people the welfare agencies were wanting to help, but not in this way. The full horror of this tragic irony was brought to public attention with the death by incineration of a runaway child in one of the bins.

However, the unfortunate history of the used clothing collection receptacles did not pass into the province of urban mythology and they are still being used today. Australians are ram-

pantly consumeristic — we don't save, we spend — but alongside this conspicuous consumption, we are also charitable. People think nothing of bundling up their unwanted family clothing, their no longer fashionable or out of season gear, and depositing it in one of the collection bins. The era of the hand-me-downs has passed but we have replaced it with something we consider to be equally practical and helpful.

I first began to wonder what happens to all the clothing donated to the welfare agencies since I've been living in a developing country where imported clothing is so expensive I refuse to buy it and the locally made stuff is either badly made or uninspiring.

As an employed expatriate I can, of course, replenish supplies during annual leave. However, apart from underwear and socks, everything I've bought in Jordan has been second hand.

For many local people on lower to middle class incomes the well stocked shops of imported second hand clothing are their only

Bring back 'the hand-me-downs'

means of keeping themselves and their families reasonably dressed.

Before I go any further, I should point out something. Like most Australians I have a fairly naive view of what happens to the clothes donated to the welfare agencies. I've always assumed that they are distributed amongst needy people, either at home or abroad.

Wrong. Your clothes are bundled and strapped up into large bails which are then sold to a wholesale dealer at a fixed minimum price per bail.

Apart from the few garments that trickle into the agencies' opportunity shops, that minimum bulk price is the only benefit they and their clients get from collecting the clothes.

What does the wholesaler do? He employs several sorters at his warehouse.

They select the best quality, top table items which are then bought in bulk by the second hand boutiques around town which sell them singly, off the rack to you. Don't be surprised if you see the clothes and accessories you thought were going to be distributed amongst the needy for sale at a so-called pre-loved or recycled clothing store.

The wholesaler then cleans and bundles the remaining clothes into bails again, selling them to distributors at approximately a one hundred percent mark up on the original bail price. From my own experience in Jordan and Syria, I can assure you that many of the clothes following a similar route through European countries do end up in the Third World.

They are not distributed amongst the needy there either. They are sold by

retailers. I know because I'm wearing some of them.

One of the fastest growing enterprises in downtown Amman is the retailing of imported second hand clothing which — and I've only just recently realised this — was originally donated to charity. There are certain areas — French Loaf and Italian Hospital Streets are the largest and busiest — where every shop for block after block has been given over to this curious enterprise.

Some shops specialise in shoes hanging by the hundreds of pairs from the ceiling, others in children's, women's or men's clothing. Other shops specialise in winter weights and overcoats — people who have never lived in the Middle East have no idea how cold it gets in winter.

In the back rooms you can often see the bails, about a metre-and-a-half high, wide and deep. There will also be a non-stop ironing board and tailor's stool. Everything is pressed and repaired on the premises and the only way to buy is

to bargain. Once again, the clothes have been bought in bulk but are sold individually, so the mark up cannot be estimated.

On Friday, the Muslim day of rest, the shops are closed but the streets are inundated with trestle tables and makeshift stalls selling the same goods. Judging by the labels I've seen and bought, most of the goods coming into Jordan were probably once collected by welfare agencies in Germany and Scandinavia.

Despite the extraordinary number of shops involved in the trade, there are probably only a handful of operators bringing in and distributing the goods. The profits these local entrepreneurs are making from the sale of clothes originally donated to charity must be very high indeed.

The writer is an Australian freelance journalist and teacher currently living in Amman. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Nigeria's crisis pits businessmen against generals

By James Jukwey

Reuters

LAGOS — Nigeria's crisis pitting a southern multimillionaire businessman against entrenched northern generals threatens to ignite a wider ethnic conflict.

While businessmen and opposition leader Moshood Abiola bides his time in jail on treason charges and military ruler General Sani Abacha shows no sign of compromise, Africa's most populous country is paralysed by strikes and sporadic riots.

Militant oil unions demanding Mr. Abiola's release and installation as president have been on strike since July 4 and brought Nigeria's oil-dependent economy to its knees.

"Abacha's greatest advantage is that people underestimate him. They think he is a pushover," said one Western diplomat.

Gen. Abacha shocked leaders of the striking oil unions last week when he ordered the strikers back to work without giving in to any of their 10-point demands.

Gen. Abacha, 51, is Nigeria's eighth military ruler and is as uncompromising as he is inscrutable.

He seized power last November during the annual election which Mr. Abiola — one of the few candidates allowed by the generals to run — is widely believed to have won.

Until then the generals and Mr. Abiola were

known to be friends.

Mr. Abiola owed his candidacy to the then military President Ibrahim Babangida who saw Mr. Abiola as an acceptable opposition figure unlikely to beat the generals' preferred northern candidate.

Mr. Abiola, 56, has transformed his image from that of a lackey of Western imperialism to a champion of democracy.

The annulment of the June 12, 1993, election made him a cause celebre of a pro-democracy movement opposed to the army's stop-start and manipulated return to a civil rule programme.

Mr. Abiola, an accountant who owns a domestic airline and newspaper group, rose from extremely poor beginnings to become a philanthropic patron of communities and individuals throughout Africa and its diaspora, earning widespread popularity.

Aides say his panacea for Nigeria's ailing economy is the introduction of Singapore-style paternalistic authoritarianism with an emphasis on big business.

Mr. Abiola's main constituency is the Yoruba-speaking southwest of Nigeria whose people are anxious to see northern political dominance ended.

Nigeria has been governed by soldiers for 24 out of its 34 years of independence.

Despite pressure from pro-democracy groups and Mr. Abiola's supporters for an immediate end to military rule, Gen. Abacha has said democracy will be restored only through the constitutional conference he in-

augurated in June.

A wealthy officer with a keen business mind, Gen. Abacha is a short dapper man in dark glasses. He says little in public and sometimes appears aloof.

Military sources say Gen. Abacha has been involved in every successful coup since 1975, when then head of state Gen. Yakubu Gowon was overthrown.

Both Mr. Abiola and Gen. Abacha are Muslims but the infantry general was born in the northern state of Kano. He fought in Nigeria's 1967-70 civil war when the southeast region of Biafra fought for secession. An estimated one million people died of war and famine.

Gen. Abacha attended the former Mons Officer Cadet College in England in 1964 and rose swiftly through the ranks to colonel in 1975. He was promoted to brigadier in 1980.

Up to 100 people have been killed in riots since Mr. Abiola was arrested in June after proclaiming himself president on the anniversary of the annulled election.

Most of the violence was in the southwest, Mr. Abiola's stronghold which includes the commercial capital Lagos but not the political capital, which army rulers had moved to in the inland city of Abuja.

Many of the sacked oil union leaders came from the south where Nigeria's oil is pumped. But because northerners dominate government much of the proceeds is syphoned off for projects in other areas, leaving the oil-producing south neglected.

Carlos seen expendable in post-cold war world

By Jim Wolf

Reuters

WASHINGTON — By the end of his long and bloody career, Carlos had, like so many of his victims, become expendable.

Experts inside and outside the U.S. government said the notorious guerrilla captured in Sudan and extradited to France Monday was doomed by post-cold war trends that brought an end to his sponsorship by such pariah states as Iran and Libya that the United States claims support terrorism.

They said Carlos, who eluded security forces for 20 years, outlived his usefulness to East European and Middle Eastern intelligence services that allegedly sheltered him during the cold war.

As a result, he lost the organisation and safe haven network that helped him carry out spectacular attacks beginning in the mid-1970s, including the 1975 kidnapping of 11 oil ministers attending an OPEC meeting in Vienna.

"He's someone from a bygone era. He's an historical curiosity," said Vincent Cannistraro, head of Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) counterterrorism operations between 1988 and 1990.

Mr. Cannistraro said Syria expelled Carlos months ago because of pressure from France, where a court sentenced him to life in prison for his role in the 1975 French counterespionage in 1975.

"There was no reason for the Sudanese not to

cooperate. And there was every reason for them to cooperate, to show they were being helpful in the fight against terrorism."

Mr. Cannistraro said in a telephone interview. "Carlos had become a throw-away."

Larry Johnson, a former State Department official who now runs an international security consulting firm, said: "The bottom line is, his state sponsorship ran out."

A U.S. intelligence official said the CIA had tracked Carlos across four continents for two decades.

"The CIA's cooperation with governments in Middle East and elsewhere helped close the noose, steadily denying Carlos safe havens," he said. "The CIA's tracking his movements was a key contribution to the French success in Sudan."

Yossef Bodansky, director of the House of Representatives Republican Task Force on Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare, said he doubted Carlos' capture spelled an end to Sudan's alleged support of militant groups seeking to abort the Arab-Israeli peace process and oust secular governments in Algeria and Egypt.

Kenneth Katzman, an expert on militant Islam at the congressional research service, said Carlos had become "expendable," giving Sudan an easy way "to deflect attention from its involvement with Islamic militants."

Last August, the U.S. State Department added Sudan to the official U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, joining Iran, Iraq,

Libya, Syria, North Korea and Cuba. As an officially listed terrorist pariah state, Sudan has been barred from trading with the United States or getting aid.

According to an annual State Department report titled "Patterns of Global Terrorism," Sudan has been providing sanctuary to such radical groups as Hizbollah, Hamas and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

"Sudan served as a convenient transit point, meeting site and safe haven for Iranian-backed extremist groups," the August 1993 report claimed. It said that five of the 15 suspects arrested last year after the Feb. 26 bombing of New York's World Trade Center were Sudanese citizens.

State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said Sudan's handover of Carlos was welcome but "in and of itself is not sufficient action to cause us to rescind their listing."

In Khartoum, Sudanese Interior Minister Al Tayeb Ibrahim Mohammad Khair said Carlos entered the country using a false passport and was seized by security agents at a rented house as he plotted attacks against foreign interests in Sudan. He was extradited to France Monday.

The Venezuelan-born Carlos, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, was a key figure in guerrilla movements from Western Europe to the Middle East to Japan. Mr. Pasqua said he had been responsible for the deaths of 83 people worldwide over the past 20 years, including at least 15 French nationals.

U.N. chief sees global 'social crisis', cites poverty, unemployment and upheaval

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali Monday said the world faces a global "social crisis", caused by poverty, unemployment, upheaval and social disintegration.

He called on the international community to make a commitment to social development, cutting military budgets first, not social and environmental spending.

The U.N. chief called on nations attending the world summit for social development next March in Copenhagen, Denmark, to pledge to reduce by half or more the proportion of people living in absolute poverty, to create jobs and to reduce disparities among income groups, sexes, ethnic groups, regions and nations.

latest of a series of ambitious international conferences: The children's summit several years ago, the earth summit in 1992, the international conference on population and development to be held next month in Cairo, Egypt and the fourth world conference on women to be held in September 1994 in Beijing.

Dr. Boutros-Ghali addressed the opening of the summit's second preparatory conference at U.N. headquarters. The conference, ending Sept. 2, will formulate a declaration and plan of action to be adopted in Copenhagen. Another preparatory meeting will be held in January to complete the texts to be adopted by heads of state at the summit.

"The global social crisis threatens many states as much as any foreign army,"

Dr. Boutros-Ghali told representatives of the 184 U.N. members as well as representatives of non-governmental organisations and others attending.

For 50 years, he said, the United Nations has avoided another world war, "but without investment in social development, the foundations of peace will not be secured."

"It is time to balance the old commitment to territorial security with a new commitment to human security: To shift from providing security through arms to ensuring security through development," he emphasised.

Fresh efforts are required to revive development in the least developed countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, Dr. Boutros-Ghali said.

In Africa, he said, major domestic reforms are needed. He called on the international community to enter into development compacts with individual countries in Africa and elsewhere.

The summit, he said, "presents a major opportunity to close the traditional North-South divide and to open a new chapter in international development cooperation for the post-cold war era."

Among many proposals, the draft summit document calls for each nation to set a timetable for eliminating extreme poverty, which afflicts 1.3 billion people worldwide.

Issues of resources and technology sharing are likely to divide developed and lesser developed nations, as they do in many international forums.

Inadequate financing for

U.N. development and other agencies also is likely to be discussed. International funding for the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP), the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other agencies are declining while funding for U.N. peacekeeping missions is on the rise.

"If that trend continues, the U.N. will become irrelevant in development," conference chairman Juan Somavia, the ambassador of Chile, told a news conference. But he also said that the United Nations and its agencies must become more efficient and effective.

He said that one of the many signs of the social crisis is the death every day of 35,000 children worldwide and said most of the deaths could be prevented with better social services.

British recovery gathering pace

LONDON (R) — Britain's economic recovery is gathering pace and economists said 1994 growth looks like outstripping the 2.75 per cent forecast by the government in June.

Revised data from the Central Statistical Office (CSO) showed that gross domestic product (GDP) grew at one per cent in the second quarter from the first rather than 0.9 per cent.

That meant the economy was 3.7 per cent bigger than in the second quarter of 1993 rather than 3.3 per cent.

Economist Adrian Cooper at brokers James Capel said the big revisions added credence to Capel's forecast that 1994 growth would reach 3.5 per cent. He now expected the consensus forecast in financial markets to move to 3.5 per cent from three per cent.

"On the basis of these figures the economy could stand still for the final two quarters of the year and we would still end up with annual growth above 2.5 per cent," Mr. Cooper said.

The government raised its forecast for full-year growth in June, but only to 2.75 per cent from 2.5 per cent.

"That looked cautious even when they made it," said Kevin Gardiner, an economist at Morgan Stanley in London.

British government bond dealers took one look at the revision to the headline GDP figure and marked prices lower on renewed interest-rate worries. Shares fell back in sympathy, though activity in both markets was subdued.

Some economists have been concerned that strong consumer spending would

suck in imports because British manufacturing industry was still too feeble to match demand. The government might then be obliged to raise interest rates to cool the economy down and prevent a balance-of-payments crisis.

However, recent trade figures have calmed those fears, since exports are growing more quickly than imports.

Separate CSP data brought further good trade news, though it was too historical to help the financial markets.

The CSO revised its estimate of the current account deficit in 1993 down to £10.3 billion (\$15.95 billion) from an estimate of £10.9 billion (\$16.88 billion) in June. It has forecast £9.5 billion (\$14.71 billion) for 1994, and economists said a deficit of that order was manageable.

Ukraine easing exchange curbs but may be slow

KIEV (R) — Ukraine's new administration announced plans Tuesday to reopen the Kiev currency exchange and ease state control over markets, but economists called the moves half-hearted.

A decree signed by President Leonid Kuchma aims to bring the overvalued official foreign-exchange rate of Ukraine's currency, the karbovanets, gradually in line with the much lower market rate by the end of the year.

It also ordered the Ukrainian Interbank Currency Exchange to resume trading on Oct. 1. The bourse was closed last November after

the government accused it of fuelling inflation.

But economists said the decree fell short of expectations and they criticised its vague wording and long deadlines.

"I can't imagine that the (International Monetary Fund) and other institutions will be pleased with this. It's quite different from what Kuchma and his advisers had led us to believe," said one Western diplomat.

"This is a recipe for further drift. They've essentially maintained the same system, perhaps knocking off some of the rough edges," he added.

Mr. Kuchma's administration is under pressure to right the economy to receive \$4 billion in aid promised by Western economic institutions provided Ukraine starts serious reforms. An IMF mission is in Kiev to work on an economic stabilisation programme with the government.

But a conservative parliament and government are pushing for more centralised control of the economy.

"This is not a simple issue and the decree is a compromise. I am certain we will be criticised by both the left and the right," Mr. Kuchma's top

economic adviser Anatoly Halchynsky told a news briefing.

"There were serious differences on this. We will have to work with the parliament on this," he said.

Mr. Halchynsky said the government hoped the reopening of the exchange would open the door to a Western-backed currency stabilisation fund. The sooner such a fund was set up, he said, the sooner Ukraine would have real market exchange rates.

Ukraine has two exchange rates — an official rate used

for the sale of 50 per cent of companies' hard-currency earnings, and a second rate set at weekly central bank auctions.

Under the terms of the decree, the official rate will be based on a series of factors, including inflation, monetary creation and the trade balance. There is no direct link to the market rate.

Economists have long criticised the lack of a free exchange rate and the compulsory sale of export earnings, saying it discouraged exporters and led to widespread capital flight and government corruption.

German growth accelerating

BONN (R) — The German economy is picking up tempo, the labour market is stabilising and inflation is retreating, Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt has said.

But he declined to comment on whether the Bundesbank's official interest rates were headed.

The government has raised its projection for 1994 annual economic growth to 2.0-2.5 per cent from its earlier projection of 1.0-1.5 per cent, Mr. Rexrodt said.

"The German economy in both east and west finds itself in a clear updraft," he said.

West German gross domestic product (GDP) grew by one per cent in the second quarter of 1994 from the first quarter and was up two per cent from the same

quarter a year earlier. West German GDP is now expected to grow between 1.5-2.0 per cent in 1994, up from earlier forecasts of growth of 0.5-1.0 per cent.

With Oct. 16 parliamentary elections approaching, trade unions and the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) say the government has painted too rosy a picture of the economy, but Mr. Rexrodt said the new data showed the government had been following the right policy line.

Data released recently showed that west German GDP grew by 0.5 per cent in the first quarter from the previous quarter and by 2.1 per cent from the same quarter a year earlier.

The east German economy, meanwhile, is adding to an already blistering pace

of expansion as investment picks up. Growth there is now seen at 8.0-10.0 per cent for 1994, up from the government's earlier expectation of 6.0-8.0 per cent.

Despite accelerating growth, prices in Germany were stabilising, Mr. Rexrodt said, adding that he expected inflation to slow to 2.5 per cent this year and 2.0 per cent in 1995.

Mr. Rexrodt said business expectations were the best they had been in 20 years. Upturns in the economies of Germany's major trading partners were also contributing to export strength despite the dollar's weakness, he said.

"We can live with the relatively strong mark," he said, because 70 per cent of German exports went to other European countries.

India's navy chief calls for expansion of fleet

BOMBAY (R) — India's naval chief has called for a bigger budget to expand the country's extensive blue water fleet in order to protect trade along India's sea lanes as it continues to open up its economy after decades of protectionism.

"With the opening up of our economy, we are once again becoming a major trading nation over the seas," said Admiral V.S. Shekhawat.

"We therefore require a sufficiently strong navy to safeguard India's maritime interests," Admiral Shekhawat said.

The navy's current budget of 30 billion rupees (\$937 million), which is 13 per cent of India's total defence budget, was inadequate, Admiral Shekhawat said.

"With a 15 per cent defence budget allocation for the navy, all I can possibly do is arrest the downside," he

said. "What I require is not just to arrest the downside, but a significant reversal, for which 18 to 20 per cent of the total defence budget is essential."

Admiral Shekhawat said that the Indian navy wants to build its own ships to standardise on equipment and spares and reduce expenses on training, all of which are much higher now because of the variety of ships in the fleet.

"We propose to go for indigenous general purpose frigates," he said, adding that government approval for a bigger budget would result in the fleet expanding substantially in about 10 years.

Analysts believe India's tightening of its purse strings for defence in recent years has been influenced by current views on regional security and the economic reforms launched in mid-1991.

The Indian Ocean, focus of a blue water fleet India sought

to build in the 1980s, is now a relatively low area of strategic concern after the end of the cold war and following New Delhi's rapprochement with Beijing, the analysts say.

India, ally of the Soviet Union in the cold war and a rival of China after their border war in 1962, had alarmed countries as far away as Australia and southeast Asia as its navy's blue water reach began to grow.

The concerns reached a peak when India acquired on lease a nuclear-powered submarine from the Soviet Union in 1989.

Asked if the navy's submarine design group had drawn up plans for a locally made nuclear-powered submarine, Admiral Shekhawat said that only conventionally powered submarines were being sought at present.

Admiral Shekhawat also rejected the option of purchasing aircraft carriers to replace the ageing Vikrant.

South Africa recovery still fragile, central bank says

JONANNESBURG (R) — South Africa's year-long recovery from its longest recession on record remained fragile and could easily lose momentum if labour friction persisted, Reserve (central) Bank Governor Chris Stals said Tuesday.

He ruled out any quick-fix solutions to the economic challenges of post-apartheid South Africa, including widespread unemployment in which 29 per cent of the labour force was unable to find paid work.

"It is an unequivocal fact ... that massive unemployment will remain a feature for some time to come as a legacy of the dismal performance of the South Africa economy over the past decade," he told the bank's annual meeting.

The economy started to recover in 1993 after four years of recession, which in-

cluded "three-in-a-row of economic shrinkage."

Mr. Stals said however, that growth faltered early this year amid uncertainties ahead of the country's first all-race elections in April.

"The recovery must still be regarded as fragile," he said. "It could easily lose its momentum again, particularly if the current friction between various trade unions and employers is not resolved soon."

He spoke against the background of a wave of strikes, accompanied by annual wage negotiations, aimed at securing the "better life for all" promised by President Nelson Mandela in his election campaign.

Production disruptions had already persuaded Finance Minister Derek Keys to drop his sights from 3.0-4.0 per cent growth for 1994, although he said recently he still expected more than 2.5 per cent following 1.2 per cent last year.

Mr. Stals urged the country to face its economic challenges in the same spirit in which it had approached "almost insurmountable"

problems of socio-political reform.

"On the one hand, the country is faced with massive but not unreasonable expectations of its people for better living conditions and a better standard of life. On the other, we have limited resources," he said.

He reaffirmed his commitment to disciplined monetary policy and the anti-inflation fight which had reduced the rate of growth in prices to single digits in 1993 for the first year in 20, and had kept it below eight per cent this year.

"We have not yet succeeded in breaking the inflation psychosis," he said, adding high inflation particularly hit the poor by eroding their living standards more.

South Africans, he said, had to rid themselves of the illusion that a solution to economic problems lay in artificial changes to prices.

"We cannot make South Africa rich just by depreciating the exchange rate, by lowering interest rates, by increasing wages, or by creating more inflation," he pointed out.

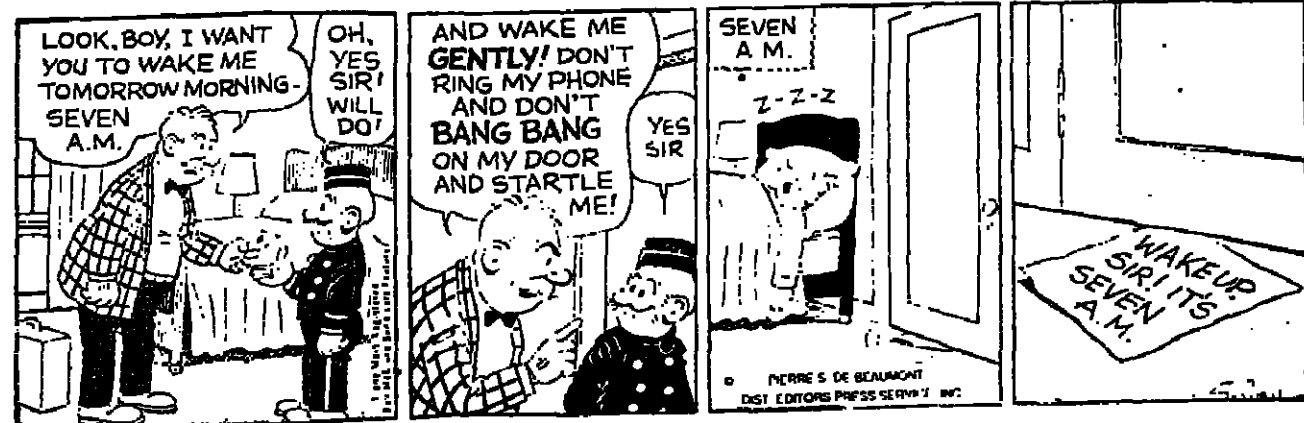
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



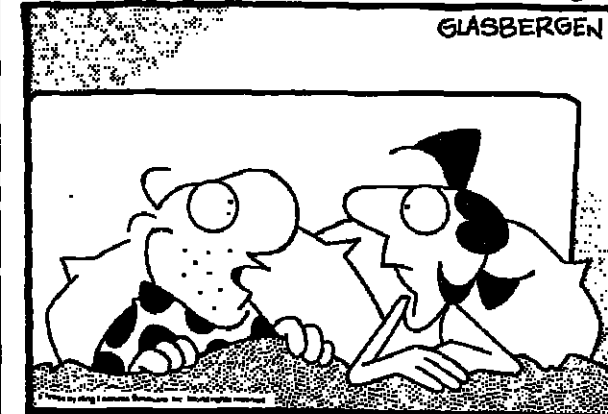
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HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY AUGUST 24, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Flighter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: If you decide to get into civic work you will increase your prestige and make many new friends that will prove vital to your business interests. Be your own generous self and express your happiness.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is an ideal day to be where you can gain knowledge and advance in career activities. Show more devotion to family members.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Study the best way to carry through with any agreements you have made and get the right results. Be wise in all of your decisions.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Figure out how to have better relations with allies. Be more willing to compromise at home for the sake of harmony.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Find a more up-to-date system for handling your obligations and you could have greater efficiency and benefits.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Planning social events and recreations for the future is wise at this time. Study outlets which can give you added income.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Look into new interests through which to better express

yourself. Take treatments to improve your health and appearance.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Use a new system and improve your regular routines. Go to the right sources for the information you need to get the results of a project.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make plans which could give you more abundance in the future. Try not to argue with others in the evening or you could be sorry.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are now able to get the backing of higher-ups in a new project you have in mind. Express happiness tonight to your loved ones.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Making needed changes where your work is concerned will bring good results at this time. Be logical in all of your decisions.

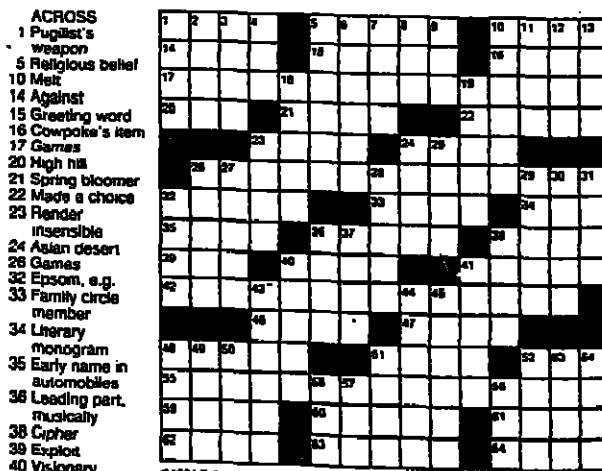
AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be your own generous self and express happiness with all the friends you can. Take no risks in motion or you could get into trouble.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Have serious talks with associates so that you can take advantage of a new situation. Be more reassuring to your loved one of your devotion.

Birthstone of August:
Peridot — Golden Quartz

THE Daily Crossword

by Frank R. Jackson



Financial Markets

Jordan Times
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Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close 22/8/94	Tokyo Close 23/8/94
Sterling Pound	1.5563	1.5520
Deutsche Mark	1.5284	1.5344
Swiss Franc	1.2885	1.2935
French Franc	5.2365	5.2540**
Japanese Yen	97.85	98.13
European Currency Unit	1.2420	1.2399**

USD Per STD
European Opening at 9:00 a.m. GMT
Source: Reuters

Interbank Interest Rates
Date: 23/8/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.50	4.75	5.00	5.50
Sterling Pound	4.75	5.12	5.68	6.50
Deutsche Mark	4.62	4.68	4.75	5.00
Swiss Franc	3.93	4.06	4.25	4.50
French Franc	5.37	5.50	5.61	6.21
Japanese Yen	1.93	2.12	2.12	2.43
European Currency Unit	5.71	5.88	6.15	6.59

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 23/8/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940
Sterling Pound	1.0735	1.0749
Deutsche Mark	0.4508	0.4531
Swiss Franc	0.5345	0.5372
French Franc	0.1316	0.1323
Japanese Yen	0.7847	0.7882
Dutch Guilder	0.4016	0.4036
Swedish Krona	0.0443	0.0445
Italian Lira	0.0443	0.0445
Belgian Franc	0.0443	0.0445

Other Currencies
Date: 23/8/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.6190	1.6320
Lebanese Lira	0.040350	0.041850
Saudi Riyal	0.1842	0.1853
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3450
Qatari Riyal	0.1889	0.1901
Egyptian Pound	0.2020	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7780	1.7940
UAE Dirham	0.1878	0.1887
Greek Drachma	0.2685	0.3150
Cypriot Pound	1.3940	1.4950

China demands fall in sky-high fertiliser prices

BEIJING (R) — China has ordered a cut in costs of fertiliser, clearly worried that sky-high prices will infuriate already unhappy farmers and worsen inflation.

Economic chief Zhu Rongji ordered major dealers to sell fertiliser at state-set rates and lower runaway prices within a set period, the official China Daily said.

He threatened speculators with punishment, and demanded large fertiliser enterprises sell at least 90 per cent of their produce to the state.

But Mr. Zhu said the controls do not mark a return to the days when the socialist state strictly controlled the whole of the economy.

"We should not consider the government's efforts to regulate the market and monitor prices as a step backwards to the days of planned economy," the newspaper quoted the vice premier as saying.

China, which has led the world in economic growth for two years, is battling an economy that is threatening to overheat.

Despite government efforts, inflation is still high, with the retail sales index in major cities growing at a year-on-year rate of 22.7 per cent in June.

Inflation in the price of grain in major cities rocketed to a yearly 52 per cent that month.

Farmers have been unhappy for several years because of high government levies and payments for their crops in promissory notes instead of in cash.

Several outbreaks of rural unrest have been reported, and the government is worried that some farmers will simply stop growing the food China needs to feed its 1.2 billion people.

Israeli top shares rise sharply

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli blue chip shares rose sharply in high turnover for the second consecutive session Tuesday after plunging on government plans to impose a 10 per cent capital gains tax, traders said.

The benchmark Mishkanim index rose 4.63 points, or 2.74 per cent, to 173.53. The MAOF 25 index of large corporations gained 2.40 per cent to 173.13. Turnover was high at 211 million shekels, compared with 220 million shekels Monday.

Last week the government announced plans for a 10 per cent capital gains tax and closed the market for two days. The exchange reopened Sunday in a selling stampede that sent the Mishkanim down nearly 10 per cent.

Traders said the tax fears were no longer affecting the market. The session was quiet and normal, rising on a technical correction to the plunge, and gains Israeli shares made on Monday in New York.

Arab Gulf states to discuss new petrochemical projects

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Gulf Arab states will hold their fourth petrochemical conference this year to discuss new investments in the sector to take advantage of possible new export outlets following the recent deal by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), officials said Tuesday.

The Nov. 21-23 conference, to be held in the Qatari capital Doha, will bring together officials and experts from the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and key consumers of petrochemicals and fertilisers as well as representatives of banks and financing companies, the officials said.

"The conference will be held under the title of investment opportunities in the GCC petrochemical and fertilisers industries," an official from the GCC secretariat told AFP by telephone from his Riyadh headquarters.

It will be the fourth such meeting to be organised by GCC countries which are seeking to expand their energy sector to face growing world demand.

Although they control more than 40 per cent of the world's oil, GCC states of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) produce a fraction of the world's petrochemical output.

According to official Gulf figures, petrochemical production capacity by all Arab states is estimated at 13.2 million tonnes per year compared with the world's total output of around 248 million tonnes. Only eight million tonnes of the Arab petrochemical production are exported.

The Arab petrochemical capacity has little changed over the past decade and Gulf officials have cited protectionism in industrial countries as the main obstacle for expanding their petrochemical industry.

GCC nations have been locked in negotiations with their main partner the European Union (EU) for more than eight years for a removal of a 13-15 per cent tax on their petrochemical exports. But the negotiations have made little headway as the EU fears such a move could threaten its independent petrochemical industry by flooding its market with cheaper Gulf products.

A study by the UAE oil ministry monthly bulletin showed GCC petrochemical exports to western industrial countries do not exceed 8.7 per cent of their total petrochemicals will not harm their own industry. On the contrary, this will prompt producers there to boost output and upgrade their competitiveness by cutting prices. This in turn will benefit the local consumers in the industrial states," it said.

"But it is hoped that the recent GATT deal will help expand the existing markets for GCC petrochemicals and find new outlets although it allows importers to impose some restrictions on imports if their markets are flooded," the study noted.

Gulf states have a large competitive edge over petrochemical producers in most other countries given their huge oil and gas reserves, estimated respectively at 460 billion barrels and around 20 trillion cubic metres.

According to a study by the Dammam-based Arab Corporation for Petroleum Investment, GCC states need to spend around \$9 billion on new petrochemical projects until the year 2000. Total investments could exceed \$21 billion until 2010, including \$7 billion on export projects.

Given their financial difficulties caused by low crude prices, the six members would be forced to borrow or bring in foreign partners, it said.

The Doha conference would be opened by Qatari Energy Minister Abdullah bin Hamad Al Attiyya and would attract nearly 300 officials and experts, the Gulf press quoted Sheikh Abdullah bin Ahmad Al Thani as saying.

"This meeting constitutes an opportunity for officials and businessmen to exchange views and experience and for encouraging investment in this field," said Sheikh Abdullah, head of the Qatari industrial development department.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. \$100 costs	Canadian dollar
1.3770/80	Deutsche marks
1.5325/35	Dutch guilders
1.7198/08	Swiss francs
1.2905/15	Belgian francs
31.58/62	French francs
5.2505/55	Italian lire
1564.3/5.8	Japanese yen
98.32/42	Swedish crowns
7.5794/94	Norwegian crowns
6.7401/51	Danish crowns
0.6000/50	
\$1.5528/38	
One sterling	
One ounce of gold	\$381.50/\$382.00

Analysts expect Lloyd's to return to profit in 1993

LONDON (R) — Lloyd's of London will finally return to profit on its 1993 year of account after running up losses totalling close to \$9 billion (\$14 billion) in the last five years, independent analysts said Tuesday.

The insurance market fell into the red on its 1968 underwriting year when a series of catastrophes combined with poor underwriting practices and a surge in U.S. pollution and asbestos claims plunged the market into its worst-ever crisis.

Analysts Chatset said Lloyd's, which reports results three years in arrears, will return to a pure profit of around £800 million (\$1.24 billion) on its 1993 underwriting year.

However, Chatset analyst Charles Sturge added that the pure profit for the 1993 year would be reduced to around £300 million (\$466 million) after including losses feeding through from claims made on insurance policies written in the past.

"There will be a profit, just, but it won't be very evenly spread," Mr. Sturge said at the launch of Chatset's latest Lloyd's League Tables publication.

More than half the 33,000 Lloyd's backers, known as names, who belonged to the market in the late 1980s will still be getting bills for losses when Lloyd's announces its 1993 result in 1995 or 1996 — he added.

Chatset estimates Lloyd's 1992 loss, to be unveiled next year, at around £1 billion (\$1.55 billion). That is down from the £2.6 billion (\$4.04 billion) deficit for 1991 announced in May this year but is still bad news for names, some of whom already face bankruptcy.

Lloyd's is on an improving trend after losses peaked at a record £2.9 billion (\$4.51 billion) in 1990. Mr. Sturge said, but added that the 300-year-old market was not out of the woods.

The cumulative losses were putting an increasing financial strain on the ability of the market and its individual backers to pass the statutory annual solvency test.

Lloyd's has acted to help names in the short term by postponing the day they have to pay at least part of their losses. This year, for example, Lloyd's has estimated that it will call on names to stump up around £1.7 billion (\$2.64 billion), some £900 million (\$1.40 billion) below the headline figure announced in May.

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COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Australians fire world warning

VICTORIA (AFP) — Kieren Perkins and Samantha Riley struck gold with two world class performances in the Commonwealth pool on Monday.

The biggest name in Australian swimming and the revelation of the Games both came within a whisker of setting world records as the Australians finally produced the times to match all the hype.

Perkins, the 800m and 1,500m freestyle record holder, signalled his return to form with a devastating 400m swim to complete a hat-trick of Commonwealth golds.

The Australian, who failed to win a single race at the national trials, clocked 3:45.77 to leave the rest of the field trailing. His time was the fastest in the world this year by nearly four seconds and only 0.77sec under the world record Evgeni Sadovyi set to deny Perkins the 400m Olympic gold in Barcelona.

The 21-year-old, who was on course to beat Sadovyi's world mark as he raced through 300m, said he could have gone faster but was unaware of his pace.

"I had a lot of speed left over the last 100, I didn't feel I was in a desperate struggle to get to the end," he said.

Perkins, who won the 1500m title in Barcelona and had already won 200m and 4

x200m golds here, appears to have peaked at exactly the right time as he heads for the world championships in Rome next month.

"My objective coming into this meet was to get back to my best times of two years ago and I've done that," Perkins said.

"It gives me a lot of confidence into the 1500m and then on to Rome."

New Zealand's Danyon Loader took the silver in a New Zealand record of 3:49.65. Daniel Kowalski, who beat Perkins in the Australian trials, had to settle for bronze after leading the qualifying.

Nick Gillingham won England's fourth gold medal with victory in the 200m breaststroke, taking revenge over Australia's Phil Rogers, who had piped him for the 100m gold, and keeping a promise he made to his father, Frank, just before he died in February.

"The last thing I said to him was what I would win here. This medal is for him," Gillingham said.

The world shortcourse champion's time of 2:12.54 was also the fastest in the world this year.

Rogers finished second, with defending champion Jon Cleveland taking the bronze.

Riley smashed the Commonwealth 100m breast-

stroke record to add that gold to her 200m triumph. Riley, who clocked 1:08.02, was only 0.11sec outside Silke Hoerner's seven-year-old world record.

"I knew if I could drop four seconds in the 200m I could drop a second at 100m," Riley said.

Rebecca Brown, who had completely eclipsed Riley with a string of world class performances and a 200m world record in the spring again had to settle for second. Penelope Heyns won South Africa's first swim medal by taking the bronze.

While 17-year-old Brown tries to rebuild her shattered confidence in time for Rome, the revitalised Riley is now contemplating an assault on both world records.

"I have to admit I was a bit disappointed when I saw the time tonight. But I have another chance in Rome and I'll have to try and keep things together until then."

Petria Thomas led the Australians to the first medals sweep in the Games with gold in the 100m butterfly. Commonwealth record holder Susan O'Neill was just piped into second place. Elli Overton won bronze.

A memorable night was rounded off by Chris Fydlar anchoring the 4 x 100m freestyle team to Australia's 16th gold of the Games.

Christie bans media talk as Ladejo bubbles

VICTORIA (AFP) — Chalk-and-cheese English track champions Linford Christie and Duane Ladejo reacted in contrasting styles here on Monday as they began their Commonwealth Games challenge.

Christie, the world, Olympic and European 100m champion, flexed his muscles with a blistering record-equalling second heat performance — but then kept his jaw clamped firmly shut as he refused to discuss his performance.

Rising 400m star Ladejo, however, who also won a European title in Helsinki by eclipsing Roger Black, could not stop bubbling after his two opening wins.

Meanwhile the first athletics medal of the games, the men's hammer, went to Australian Sean Carlin.

He saw off a trio of Englishmen to blast out a winning throw of 73.48m, with Paul Head (70.18) and Peter Vivian (69.80) taking silver and bronze.

Christie, who jogged to 10.38secs in his opener before posting a fine 10.02 which equalled his own Auckland Games record, said sharply: "I've got work to do — not talking between rounds."

He was quickly joined in the semi-finals by Namibian Frankie Fredericks, the world 200m champion, who ran a scorching 10.04.

Olapade Adeniken of Nigeria, still sporting stitches above his left eye after a brawl with American rival Dennis Mitchell in Zurich, also qualified impressively in 10.21, with world indoor 60m champion Bruny Surin not far behind.

Ladejo, a huge favourite for the 400m after beating 1986 Commonwealth winner Black in Helsinki, made time after his double heat victories to explain: "I'm still a kid, an apprentice — I'm using the



Linford Christie

other runners to help me reach another level.

"That doesn't mean I'm saying I can't be beaten — hit me if I ever say that. I know I was looking across at them in the final straight, but that's not arrogance or cockiness. I just wanted to see how they looked. I'm learning."

The 23-year-old highlighted Nigerian Sunday Bada as the big danger, and Bada obliged by qualifying for the semi-final behind Trinidadian Neil de Silva.

One man to struggle to find his best form on Monday was world champion Colin Jackson in the 110m hurdles.

The Welshman made things hard for himself in his opening race, smashing three hurdles but still winning in 13.52 secs, while England's Tony Jarrett, the world silver medalist, won the second heat to reach the final.

The stars of the women's

400m race jostled for position, with Nigerian Fatima Yusuf and Sandie Richards of Jamaica winning on points on the way to Tuesday's final.

Yusuf, the holder, saw off European bronze medalist Phyllis Smith — who had beaten her in the first round — to win her semi, while Richards, the world bronze medalist, clocked 51.23 to beat Australian Cathy Freeman.

The high jump qualifiers produced early drama when Australian world junior champion Hagan James failed to get through.

Bahamas star Troy Kemp did not start, leaving Steve Smith, England's world silver winner, to head one group with compatriot Brendan Reilly the other.

European indoor Euro winner Dalton Grant and Australian Tim Forsyth, another medal hope, also qualified.

decisive move but, as the size of the group increased, constant chasing pulled them back on the final climb with seven kms remaining.

"In the descent, four riders crashed while avoiding another faller but none was seriously injured. Italian Michela Fanini, who had been among the leaders, was among those who crashed.

Golay, who took her second bronze in three days, said: "I come from Florida so I can handle the heat but everyone has to be sure to drink enough."

On Sunday, she helped the U.S. to third place in the 50-km team time trial at Palermo.

Army shooters win games gold for Cyprus

VICTORIA (AFP) — A pair of 20-year-olds shrugged off bad weather and landed a gold medal for tiny Cyprus in Commonwealth Games shooting here on Monday.

Shotgun duo Antonis Andreou and Christos Kourtellos, fresh from their national army service, won the skeet open, an outdoor event, in cold, overcast and windy conditions at Hea's Range.

"We may be a small nation but we have a lion's heart," said a proud Lakis Psimolophotis, president of the Cypriot shooting federation.

The Cypriot score of 189 out of a possible 200 points shooting clay pigeons was three points better than the next best by New Zealand and Scotland, England and Wales.

The Kiwis, Brian Thomson and Geoffrey Jukes, edged the Scottish pair of Michael Thomson and Ian Marsden to the silver on the countback based on their last 10 shots.

It was Cyprus's first shooting gold medal in a Commonwealth Games but Psimolophotis was not surprised.

The Cypriots had won the team event at the Milan world championships prior to coming here and had been confident of the title, he said.

Kourtellos, whose shotgun career began when his father took him partridge hunting, said: "I am proud to win here as a representative of my country. I look forward to a

gold medal in the individual event."

Canadian men won a second men's team title and Australia took the remaining two shooting on Monday.

Wayne Sorensen teamed up with Michel Dion to win the three-positions rifle gold. Prone, standing and kneeling, he shot the day's best score of 1,156 in Canada's total of 2,300.

Scotland's William Murray and Allister Allan edged Englishmen Chris Hector and Trevor Langridge to the silver medal.

The two teams were first announced as level on 2,271 points, but a countback showed the English had fired one shot too many and they were penalised.

Sorensen, whose father Arne is also on the shooting squad, earned his second gold medal of the games, after he and Jean-Francois Senecal won a rifle event on Friday.

"I feel blessed," Sorensen said. "I shot a great score. I didn't feel confident kneeling, but it looked like I just couldn't miss today."

Australian women Annette Woodward and Christine Trehy won the women's air pistol team gold by two points over New Zealand's Gerd Barkman and Jocelyn Lees.

And just point separated England's bronze medalists Carol Page and Margaret Thomas from the Kiwis.

Hopes high for S. African boxing golds

VICTORIA (AFP) — Stephanus Carr, one of South Africa's two strong gold medal contenders, stopped Bahamas fighter Esley Padmore here on Monday to get his Commonwealth Games lightweight challenge off the ground.

National coach Dan Bushney predicted Carr could now win boxing gold in this traditionally strong South African sport.

Four out of six South African fighters got past the first round and Bushney is backing Carr, 20, and Irvin Buhalu for a medal.

Lightweight Buhalu, a 19-year-old Zulu, has unwittingly become famous. He is the first ever black South African to compete in the Commonwealth Games. The last time South Africa competed, in 1958, only whites were in the side.

Buhalu, like fellow black team members Victor Kunene, a light-middleweight, and flyweight Masibulele Makepula, were only allowed to fight other black fighters title 1991.

Now apartheid is abolished and Nelson Mandela, who used to box himself, is the first black president of the country.

The other members of the team — welterweight Jozze Mestree, light-middleweight Floris Duplessis, and Carr — are white fighters.

"I had a lot of confidence in the opening ceremony when I saw our flag being carried. If we can win just one boxing bronze medal, it would mean so much to the sport back home."

In 1958, South Africa won four golds in the light-welterweight, welterweight, light-middleweight and heavyweight categories, and have won 12 golds in all.

Carr, who stopped Padmore after a minute 53 seconds of the third round, would not be drawn on whether he would become number 13.

"This is my first big event and I'm very happy with how I boxed today. But boxing is so different at international level. You need to concentrate harder because of all the distractions," Carr said.

Bushney explained how competing at these games is a disadvantage for South Africans.

He said the competitors are so thrilled to be competing with other nations that it is not easy to concentrate on their sport.

"I have been a coach for 33 years, but have never been

involved with such a terrific event as this. The Canadians have been great hosts and we have been overwhelmed by the reception."

"I had tears in my eyes at the opening ceremony when I saw our flag being carried. If we can win just one boxing bronze medal, it would mean so much to the sport back home."

The South Africans will stage the World Amateur championships in Johannesburg in October and Bushley said it would be "great" to have a host country Commonwealth medalist competing.

The government is financially supporting an intensive development programme in the South African townships to boost amateur boxing at grass roots level. The country has about 5,000 amateur boxers.

Apart from Carr, South Africa's other fighters have had mixed fortunes so far. Buhalu beat Swaziland's Patrick Kekana 15-3 on points in a lightweight contest on Friday.

Massibulele Makepula, at light-flyweight, beat Australian Aaron Everett 26-10 on points on Saturday.

Norway gets first world road race title

CAPO D'ORLANDO, Sicily (R) — Monica Valvik underlined her world number one ranking when she gave Norway its first world road race title in a sprint finish to the 86.4 kms race on Tuesday.

She held off Belgian Patsy Naegeman, with American Jeanne Golay third, as the main field finished in the same time of two hours eight minutes three seconds.

Valvik missed her chance last year when the world title race was in Norway, crashing on the final lap, but has made more of an impact this season.

She has won many tour stages, as well as taking the World Cup stage race in the Netherlands, and has seldom

been out of the top three in her events.

She said: "I was number one in the world rankings before this race, but I still would not say that I am the best in the world. 'It was tough for me because I was alone without team mates, and I had to use the other riders. I could not make too much effort otherwise it would have destroyed me for the sprint.'"

On the final 12.3-km lap a breakaway developed involving Imelda Chiappa of Italy, Swiss Luzia Zberg and French riders Catherine Marsal and Cecile Odin.

When four-times world champion Jeannie Longo joined them it looked like the

decisive move but, as the size of the group increased, constant chasing pulled them back on the final climb with seven kms remaining.

"In the descent, four riders crashed while avoiding another faller but none was seriously injured. Italian Michela Fanini, who had been among the leaders, was among those who crashed.

Golay, who took her second bronze in three days, said: "I come from Florida so I can handle the heat but everyone has to be sure to drink enough."

On Sunday, she helped the U.S. to third place in the 50-km team time trial at Palermo.

Tanzanian official accuses judges of racial bias

VICTORIA (R) — One of Tanzania's top boxing officials accused Commonwealth Games judges of racial bias on Monday after a potential gold medalist suffered a controversial points defeat by a Scottish opponent.

Jamal Nassor Adi, general team manager of the Tanzanian boxing squad, hit out bitterly at the International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) after flyweight Mbwana Matumala lost a narrow decision to Paul Shepherd.

"I'm blaming AIBA for treating us badly, especially blacks," said Nassor Adi. "When we're playing with whites, all the time they make us lose. 'I've been watching the championship and it's happened three or four times before. I'm sure Matumala would have won a gold medal. AIBA are killing boxing in Africa.'"

Tanzanian officials appealed against the decision which left Matumala, one of three brothers hoping for a Commonwealth boxing medal in Victoria, open-mouthed with astonishment in the centre of the ring.

The judges — from Wales, Australia, India, Malaysia and Nigeria — had shepherd a lop-sided 8-2 ahead going into the final round which Matumala took 6-3.

The 11-8 verdict brought a chorus of boos from the crowd and the dejected Matumala was given a standing ovation as he left the arena.

A jury will consider the Tanzanian protest on Tuesday, but Nassor Adi also claimed an AIBA official had attempted to block his appeal.

"I went up to him and he said 'you can't appeal unless you have the rule-book.' He had one but he even refused to give it to me to see what was written there."

Nassor Adi was eventually escorted from the ringside area by two policemen, but Tanzanian honour was partially restored soon afterwards when the eldest Matumala brother, lightweight Haji, won an undisputed 24-7 points verdict over Zambian Davis Mwale.

A night of strange decisions reached its logical conclusion when Canadian Mike

Strange won a single-point verdict over Irvin Buhalu, the first black South African to represent his country in the games.

The Durban lightweight, who has set his sights on gold at the 1996 Olympics, was floored in the final seconds but many observers felt he had done enough earlier to win.

The defeat took some of the gloss off South Africa's encouraging showing in their first Commonwealth Games since 1958 when they headed the boxing gold medal table with four.

After a gap of 36 years since heavyweight Daniel Bekker won in Cardiff, it was left to middleweight Floris du Plessis to try and put the republic back on the boxing podium.

The bald du Plessis put up a gallant struggle but was eventually stopped in the second round by Kenyan Peter Wanyoike, who is now assured of a bronze along with Nigerian Rasmus Ojemaye.

Canada's Rowan Donaldson, who prefers Ron as his

first name, and Mervyn Peniston-John of Trinidad and Tobago, who does not go in for abbreviations, are the other middleweight gold medal contenders in the last four.

Australia, without a boxing gold since 1978, reinforced the good early impression their squad has made when Joseph Zabakly and Robert

Peden both progressed to within one step of a medal in the lightweight and bantamweight divisions.

Competition is also heating up at light-welterweight where English gold medal hope Peter Richardson, still feeling his way back after injury, edged out Canadian Jamie Pagendam in a storming fight.

Quinn back for republic

DUBLIN (AFP) — Manchester City striker Niall Quinn could make a dramatic return to the republic of Ireland after being named here on Monday in the 21-man squad for the opening European Championship tie against Latvia in Riga on September 7.

Quinn, out of football for nine months after a cruciate ligament injury, is determined to win his 44th cap. "Missing the World Cup finals in America this summer was a huge disappointment," said the 27-year-old Dubliner.

"My target was always to be back in the squad for this game against Latvia. I am delighted Big Jack has given me this call-up."

City boss Brian Horton wanted to ease Quinn back into the game after his lengthy lay-off but the striker hopes to have at least a couple of games under his belt before the meeting with Latvia.

Jack Charlton keeps faith with the majority of the 22-man squad which took the Republic to the knockout stages in America.

The exceptions are Ronnie Whelan, still to sort out his future after his departure from Liverpool, Kevin Moran.

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Australia tops in gymnastics

VICTORIA (AFP) — Australian gymnasts picked up five individual apparatus gold medals at the Commonwealth Games Monday after Rebecca Stoyel and Salli Wills added to the three the men won in the morning session.

"We came out and did the best job we could as a team. I think today we answered our critics," said Brennan Dowrick who successfully defended his Commonwealth title on the pommel horse.

Canada's Stella Umeh, the all-around champion, rounded off her career in international events by taking the vault gold. Competing with an ankle stress fracture, Umeh had a painful landing on the beam. In visible discomfort for the final floor exercise, the tough Canadian was supported by her mother who called from the stands: "Come on Stella. It's the last one."

Umeh's 9.375 finally placed her fourth, but she remained the single most successful woman gymnast of the Games.

England's Neil Thomas put in a winning performance on the floor — his specialty discipline and also earned a vault bronze after falling on his first landing.

Canada's Alan Nolet, rescued his team with a gold in the men's last event, the high bar. Nolet, like Thomas one of the oldest competitors here, also won a bronze on the floor.

"I'm not the most stable of gymnasts," Nolet said. "But I give 100 per cent. You have to win in this sport."

Kris Burley of Canada was the bridesmaid, picking up silver in parallel bars, the vault and the floor.

Australian men earned gold through Peter Hogan (parallel bars), Bret Hudson

(vault) and Dowrick's pommel horse. Stoyel won the uneven bars and Wills on the balance beam.

Dowrick ended the day with three medals — two bronze medals in the rings and parallel bars. In the rings he tied with Canadian Richard Ikeda and both took home a bronze medal.

It was also a good day for the English. Peter McDermott took the gold on the rings to share

success with Thomas. In the afternoon Annika Reeder won the floor exercises gold and Jacqueline Brady and Zita Lusack took silvers in the floor and balance beam.

A highlight of the last session were minor placings by Sonia Lawrence of Wales, second in the vault and third placed New Zealand Sarah Thompson on the uneven bars. The rest of the gymnastic medals were won by Canada, Australia or England.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
A TAMMAM HIRSH
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MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ J 10 6 5
♥ 5 10 7 4
♦ 8 9
♣ A 2

EAST
♠ K 8 7 3
♥ Q 9 4 2
♦ 3
♣ 10 9 7 6 2

WEST
♠ A K 8 7 3
♥ 5 10 7 4
♦ 8 9
♣ A 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 8 5 3 2
♥ 5 10 7 4
♦ 8 9
♣ A 2

The bidding:
North East South West
1♥ Pass 4♥ 5♥
5♥ Pass 6♥ Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠
Good morning, Mr. Phelps.
Playing in a rubber-bridge game South, a rather unimpaired bidder, but a bridge player of no mean ability arrived at six hearts on the auction shown. West, a leader in a clandestine movement whose purpose is to expose alarm experts, led the King of spades. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to decide whether South can make the contract. As usual, this department will deploy all knowledge of your mission should you be caught in an error of analysis. Needless to say, West will be only too happy to publish any failure on your part. Keep the hand. This tape will self-destruct in 10 seconds. Good luck, Jim."

The Mission Impossible? team pored over the hand all night. The only conclusion they were able to reach was that the services of a bridge expert were required. Because of the sensitivity of the task, they even North of the border in search of the legendary Chief Running Rabbit.

It took the Great One only a few seconds to pronounce a verdict: "The contract can no longer be defeated."

"Declarer ruffs the opening lead with the ace, overtakes the queen of trumps with the king and ruffs another spade high. A trump to the ten permits another spade ruff and the ace of clubs is the entry to lift the last spade. Now declarer simply ruffs a high diamond and, if the queen does not drop, exits with a club."

"If West wins, a black-out return allows declarer to ruff in hand while shifting a diamond from dummy. If East wins, declarer allows a diamond return to run around to the jack. In either case, 12 tricks are there for the taking."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Munitions blast wounds 3 Israeli soldiers

TEL AVIV (AP) — An explosion at a munitions depot in the occupied West Bank town of Bethlehem Tuesday wounded three Israeli soldiers, the army said. Israeli radios said the blast appeared to be accidental but the army said it was probing a possibility of sabotage. Israel's Itim news agency said the explosion occurred shortly after 1430 (1130 GMT) in a tent where ammunition is kept at the military government headquarters in Bethlehem, setting off a chain of other blasts that wounded the soldiers. It said that the depot is located near a tent where Palestinian detainees are kept. Two troops were injured slightly and a third was listed in moderate condition the army said.

Iran trains tribesmen in military exercises

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran launched manoeuvres Tuesday aimed at training tribes along the western border with Iraq in defensive military exercises, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast said several "battalions" comprising tribesmen from across western Bakhtaran province will take part in the two-day exercises. It said tribesmen in traditional garb and on horseback trained in the open fields in tactics aimed at stopping "enemy" incursions.

Palestinian minister appeals for more Japanese aid

TOKYO (APF) — Ahmad Qureia, the Palestinian economic and trade minister, called on Japan Tuesday to expand economic aid for Palestinian self-rule, particularly to help beef up its peacekeeping police. "The Palestinian police are a peacekeeping police. They are not military forces," he told a news conference. "Therefore I believe that support for the police is real support for the peace process." Japan has pledged \$200 million over two years in aid to Palestinian autonomy, by financing reconstruction of the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip. Mr. Qureia said he had asked Japanese leaders to extend Japan's aid pledge from two to five years to cover the transition period while Palestinian authorities face "serious challenges" in maintaining peace and economic development. He said Japanese officials had reacted favourably and that "there will be very good results."

Kabul denies Russian border claims

KABUL (APF) — A presidential spokesman here Tuesday refuted Russian allegations that their security troops stationed along the sensitive Afghan-Tajik international border were recently attacked from inside Afghanistan. "We are following our usual policy of non-interference," the spokesman Abdul Aziz Morad said. "We consider this a globally recognised principle and we expect the same treatment from others," Mr. Morad added. Afghanistan considers the issue of Tajikistan an internal question, and it was "up to the Tajik people themselves to solve their own problems," he said. Mr. Morad said the large population of Tajik refugees still living in northern Afghanistan were afforded humanitarian assistance only, denying alleged military training or arming of the refugees. "The clashes on the border were between Tajik guerrillas on one side and Tajik and Russian soldiers on the other side," said Mr. Morad.

Heat kills 30 in eastern Sudan

KHARTOUM (APF) — A wave of crushing heat and humidity have claimed the lives of 30 persons in the eastern region of Port Sudan, the army newspaper Al Guwat Al Mulsaha said Tuesday. The paper said the death toll reached its peak on Friday when 11 died. Temperatures in eastern Sudan have recently soared to 44 degrees Centigrade (112 Fahrenheit).

Two Afghan drug smugglers killed in clash

TEHRAN (APF) — Iranian police shot dead two Afghan drug traffickers and seriously wounded another in eastern Iran, the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Tuesday. The clash occurred during a security operation Monday in the mountainous Ahangaran region in Khorasan province near the Afghan border, IRNA said. A fourth Afghan drug trafficker was arrested. The security forces seized 106 kilograms of opium in the operation.

Three members of Dev Sol killed in prison

ISTANBUL (APF) — Two men and a woman convicted for being members of the extreme-left revolutionary group Dev-Sol have been found murdered in two separate prisons in Turkey, police here said Tuesday. The victims were discovered over the weekend along with a communist left near their bodies which said that they had been "punished" by other Dev-Sol inmates for collaborating with authorities and causing the deaths of other members of the underground organisation, police said. Two of the victims, Hasan Hulusi Kulak and Simen Aydin, were found impaled in the prison of Bayrampasa, in Istanbul, and the third, Ahmet Celal Ozkul, was found strangled to death in the courtyard of a prison in Ankara, police added. Prison officials said a riot erupted in Bayrampasa prison after the discovery of the two bodies but it had been put down by Monday evening. Several inmates were injured during the riot which protested stiffer security measures following the two murders, the officials said.

Turkish planes hit Kurd bases in Iraq

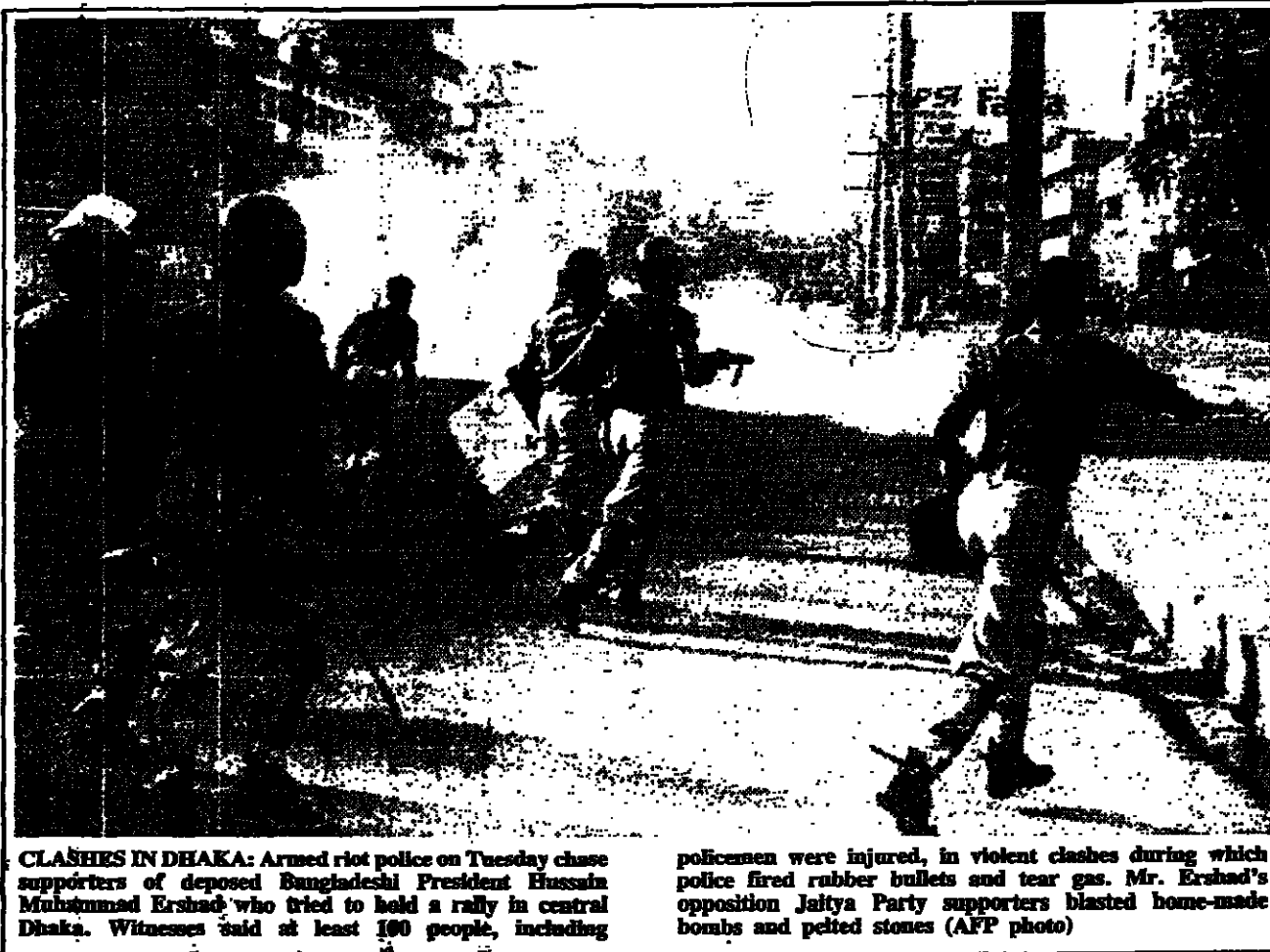
ANKARA (R) — Turkish jets struck a Kurdish guerrilla base 230 kilometres inside northern Iraq on Tuesday, the latest in a series of cross-border raids aimed at separatist forces, a military spokesman said. He said 32 planes took part in the attack on a base 60 kilometres southwest of a big Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) camp at Zaleh. All planes returned safely to base. There was no immediate estimate of casualties, pending a reconnaissance mission over the region, he said. The military said on Monday it had carried out raids on Aug. 15 and 20, killing 92 guerrillas. The latest attack marked the eighth such assault within a month.

Bomb explodes near Turkish palace

ISTANBUL (R) — A bomb exploded on Tuesday in the garden of Istanbul's Topkapi palace, causing little damage and no injuries, police said. The 15th century palace, one of Istanbul's major tourist sites, is closed on Tuesdays. On Monday an explosion outside a military recruiting station in Istanbul killed three Turks and wounded four. Last week, a Romanian man died from injuries sustained in an Aug. 12 blast at a crowded international bus station.

Court suspends Egyptian school veil decree

CAIRO (APF) — Government attempts to curb Islamic influence in schools were dealt a blow on Tuesday when a court suspended a decree that girls must have their parents' permission to wear the veil in class. Education Minister Hussein Kamel Bahaeddin issued the ruling which was to come into effect in the new school year but it was challenged in court by Islamist lawyers representing schoolgirls' parents. The Cairo administrative court on Tuesday ordered the suspension of the decree, saying it would later on whether it was constitutional. The lawyers said that the decree violated the dictates of Islam, as therefore unconstitutional. Al Azhar, the world's Sunni Muslim authority, also denounced the government measure. The Egyptian constitution is based on Islamic law, which rules that girls who reach puberty should wear the veil. But the minister said that his order did not ban the veil, but ensured that girls would not be forced to wear it by extremist teachers.



CLASHES IN DHAKA: Armed riot police on Tuesday chase supporters of deposed Bangladesh President Hussain Muhammad Ershad who tried to hold a rally in central Dhaka. Witnesses said at least 100 people, including

policemen were injured, in violent clashes during which police fired rubber bullets and tear gas. Mr. Ershad's opposition Jatiya Party supporters blasted home-made bombs and pelted stones (APF photo)

20 victims of Morocco air crash foreigners

RABAT (Agencies) — Twenty foreign travellers were among the 44 passengers and crew killed in the crash of a Royal Air Maroc aircraft on an internal flight Sunday, officials said Tuesday.

Among the foreign victims were eight Italians, five French, four Dutch, two Kuwaitis, and one German woman identified as Elizabeth Steckel who was travelling with her 13-month-old daughter of Moroccan nationality.

The ATR 42 aircraft was on a flight to Casablanca and came down in remote terrain some 10 minutes after take-off from the southern coastal city of Agadir, killing all 40 passengers and four crew.

The crash was probably due to technical failure, state-run television reported Monday.

The aircraft's flight recorder, including the black box, had been sent to Casablanca for analysis, and would probably confirm the technical failure theory, the television said.

One of the Kuwaitis aboard was a prince and the brother of Kuwait Interior Minister Ahmad Al Hamud Al Jaber Al Sabah, the television said.

Mr. Peres and Mr. Herzog discussed preparations for celebrations, in May 1995, of the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Israel and the Federal Republic of Germany, German presidential sources said.

The two men also discussed extreme-right violence in Germany, Mr. Peres saying he was satisfied with the degree to which German political parties had turned their back on racism and xenophobia.

In a meeting with Rita Süssmuth, president of the Bundestag (the lower house of the German parliament), the Israeli foreign minister said he was confident Germany would fight Nazism, anti-Semitism and "international terrorism," a Bundestag statement said.

Mr. Peres called on Germans to ask themselves what contribution Germany could make to the peace process and the new order in the Middle East.

On Monday, Mr. Peres, warning that nuclear smuggling from Eastern Europe could turn into an international threat, thanked Germany for its efforts to crack down on the illegal trade.

Mr. Peres said Bonn, which is pressing Moscow to tighten security around former Soviet nuclear plants, was right to try to seal the sources it blames for a rash of black market shipments uncovered in Germany in recent months.

"They may not be of military grade and they may not be in large quantities, but the potential danger is great," Mr. Peres said of several seized shipments of deadly plutonium and other materials.

Zeroual is ready to allow opposition to contact FIS

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual has moved to stem violent political strife by inviting the opposition to talk to the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), though some parties are hostile to contacts with the fundamentalists.

Mr. Zeroual on Monday encouraged five parties taking part in talks with the government — all favourable to FIS participation in politics — to go and meet the leaders of the dissolved party in prison to try and convince them to join the new talks.

Meanwhile, Abdul Kader Hachani, a senior FIS official, was reported Tuesday by the daily El Hwar to have ended, at the request of the FIS leadership, a hunger strike he began on Aug. 8.

He began the action to press to be put on trial as quickly as possible and be considered a political prisoner, according to El Hwar, which said that Mr. Hachani is currently in a cell with ordinary criminals.

Meanwhile, Islamic guerrillas were apparently continuing to carry out their threat to harm teachers and pupils when sociology professor Rabah Stambouli, 65, was shot dead Tuesday morning as he emerged from his home at Tizi Ouzou in Kabylie, police said.

Stambouli was well-known in Algerian intellectual circles for his writings in favour



Liamine Zeroual of a tolerant Islam.

The Armed Islamic Group (GIA), which has vowed violently to disrupt the start of the new school year, is also thought responsible for hanging the deputy head of a training college in Si-Mustapha over the weekend and for blowing up or setting fire to some 20 schools and other academic institutions.

Islamic extremists began a violent campaign that has claimed more than 3,000 lives after the army intervened in January 1992 to cancel the second round of a general election the FIS was poised to win.

Mr. Zeroual stressed that before they could rejoin the political mainstream, FIS leaders must publicly adhere to principles which are "incontrovertible and non-

negotiable" and condemn violence, respect the constitutions, respect Islam as the state religion, allow political pluralism and democracy.

Mr. Zeroual recalled in the statement that last January he met jailed FIS leaders who had confirmed their willingness to contribute to ending the violence. Mr. Zeroual was then defence minister, a post he still holds.

FIS leaders Ali Djeddi and Abdul Kader Boukhankham, freed on February 22, had been "mandated to work for the halt to the violence," said the statement. "Six months after this measure, there has been no result."

The decision to allow encounters with FIS leaders could break the isolation surrounding the movement and return its voice to the mainstream with reports by politicians from the prison cells.

FIS leaders now communicate with followers via occasional letters sneaked out of prison or through its network of exiles in Europe and the United States. In a communique following the meeting, the president reiterated that he was not opposed to dialogue with the FIS — if they renounced violence.

The meeting was to continue on Wednesday. Three parties have refused to attend. Participants at the talks reported a more open attitude by authorities than in two previous encounters.

Syrians prepare to go to the polls

DAMASCUS (APF) — Intellectuals, affluent traders and actors are among those hoping to win seats in the Syrian parliament when a two-day poll starts on Wednesday.

Women are also hoping to build on the 21 places they currently hold in the 250-seat People's Assembly.

It will be the sixth legislative election in Syria since President Hafez Al Assad, then defence minister, seized power in November 1970. The current parliament's four-year mandate ran out on June 10.

More than seven million Syrians are registered to vote on Wednesday and Thursday.

So far, 7,266 candidates are down to contest the elections, but the final number will not be known until late Tuesday.

One thing is certain — the majority of seats will again go to the National Progressive Front (NPF), a coalition of seven parties headed by Al Assad's ruling Baath Arab Socialist Party.

Of the 250 seats, 127 have been set aside for "workers and small farmers" by presidential decree, which described such constituents as "the productive force on which the economic development of the country depends."

The other 123 are reserved for other categories. Some 8,500 polling booths have been posted in the country's 15 regions. The poll is conducted according to a first-past-the-post system, the winning candidates being those who gain the most votes on a list.

The most skillful contenders hoping to ride on the coat-tails of the NPF have joined "open" lists run by the coalition.

They include intellectuals, merchants and actors encouraged by the success of about 20 colleagues in the last elections in 1990 and a bitter contest has broken out among them.

Banners proclaiming the profession of each candidate have been hung up calling for development and modernisation, even though their electoral programmes remain unclear.

Meanwhile the NPF candidates have been canvassing under the slogan of "national unity."

Women are hoping to improve on their 1990 success, when the number of female deputies increased from 18 to 21.

Diana 'a loose cannon'

LONDON (APF) — Diana, the Princess of Wales, is "a loose cannon", endangering a fragile monarchy, the British press opined Tuesday, after her public denial she had made nuisance phone calls to a millionaire friend.

The idea that there are forces... out to destabilise the Princess of Wales is, unhappily, not a completely implausible one," the centre-left daily The Guardian said in its comment. "The monarchy is going through one of its more fragile stages and the Princess of Wales is one among a number of loose cannons which could inflict severe, if not terminal damage upon its tottering infrastructure."

The conservative Daily Telegraph wrote: "There are today deep fears that the princess is a loose cannon on deck, an unhappy woman full of doubts and grievances, whose future course is uncertain."

The tabloid Daily Mirror also latched onto the phrase, saying her estranged husband Prince Charles's camp regarded her as "something of a loose cannon", lacking guidance, which could explode in any direction. "Friends of the prince, the heir to the throne, said he was 'more worried than angry' about Princess Diana's judgement."

Tory and opposition Labour MPs Monday demanded an inquiry into how the police investigation into the calls allegedly made to Old Etonian Oliver Hoare, 48, one of the world's most respected dealers in Islamic art, came to be leaked to the Sunday tabloid The New of the World. Scotland Yard was reported to have traced the calls to Princess Diana's private line in Kensington Palace, to her mobile phone, to a phone at the home of her sister, Lady Sarah, and to public phone boxes near the palace.

Scotland Yard Monday declined to comment on any aspect of the story. There was also anger in the House of Commons Monday over reports, denied by the government, that a government minister intervened to have the police investigation aborted.

Young German lieutenant helped save Paris

BONN (APF) — On Aug. 22, 1944, Ernst Von Bressendorf, a 26-year-old German lieutenant and passionate Francophile, dared tamper with an emergency order from Adolf Hitler — and the city of Paris has been in his debt ever since. "A top secret order came over the teleprinter," Lt. Von Bressendorf recalled recently, after a lapse of 50 years. "After decoding it I realised it was an order from Hitler to blow up all public buildings, bridges and industrial sites in Paris."

With Allied forces fast closing in on the city, then in the final days of Nazi occupation, Lt. Von Bressendorf made his move. "I held back the report for 12 hours, hoping it would be too late — because I loved France," Lt. Von Bressendorf said. Lt. Von Bressendorf was a communications officer assigned to the staff of General Dietrich Von Choltitz, the German commander in Paris. "When I finally gave the order to Von Choltitz, you could already hear the (Allied) guns in the distance."

The former lieutenant remembers his chief as an "aggressive bulldog." With his moniker, "he was the perfect embodiment of the Prussian general," Gen. Von Choltitz had previously been given standing orders to reduce the French capital to rubble if ever the Allies were to approach. But he too was torn between a duty to obey Hitler and the awful realisation that he would be remembered by history as the man who destroyed Paris. In those desperate final hours he was ordered to regroup his armour and artillery units and to call in the Luftwaffe to annihilate the "pockets of insurrection" that were emerging all over Paris as the allies bore down on the city. But by then it was too late to defend the capital and the Fuehrer's directive was ignored. On the eve of its liberation, a distraught Hitler was reported to have demanded of his staff: "Is Paris burning?" Hitler was disappointed, Paris was spared and its residents today are celebrating the 50th anniversary of its deliverance.

3 Somalis killed, 3 caught after ambush on U.N. force

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — Indian soldiers of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Somalia ended the hunt for the Somali killers of seven of their comrades after most of the gunmen got away, a U.N. spokesman said on Tuesday.

The search for the attackers, who fired anti-aircraft guns and mortars at Indian soldiers in the village of Burleego, 110 kilometres southwest of Mogadishu on Monday, ended with the killing of three Somalis and the capture of three others.

U.N. military spokesman Richard McDonald said Indian helicopters and ground troops gave up the search for the Somali militiamen who had apparently dispersed into the bush and surrounding villages following Monday's ambush.

The militiamen, whose weapons included mortars and anti-aircraft guns, had attacked a U.N. convoy made up of three civilian road contractors escorted by about 20 Indian peacekeepers in three vehicles.

The seven-hour battle which followed the attack was the bloodiest clash between U.N. forces and militia for months.

Major McDonald said the three detainees would be interrogated by personnel of the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM), but the motive for Monday's attack was not yet known.

Maj. McDonald said that nine soldiers had been injured and not six, as first announced by UNOSOM on Monday, and that all were in stable condition Tuesday in hospitals in Baidoa and Mogadishu.

He added that it was possible that more of the Somalis had been killed or wounded, but only three deaths could be confirmed.

On Monday, Maj. McDonald described the ambush as an unprovoked and carefully coordinated attack.

A number of weapons-equipped vehicles, normally used by Somali clan militia fighters, were destroyed as the U.N. troops fought back the attack, Mr. McDonald said.

The incident brought to 106 the number of U.N. peacekeepers killed in Somalia since May 1993.

U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali recommended Friday that the United Nations immediately cut its personnel in Somalia by 1,500 and that the force eventually be cut down to 15,000. U.N. military personnel in Somalia currently number 18,761.

Dr. Ghali said the force should be reduced to 15,000 before the end of October or during November.

In the latest attack, the militia struck in territory held by the Habre Gedir clan of Mohammad Farah Aided, the warlord who battled U.N. and American troops in the streets of Mogadishu last year.

Habre Gedir forces have been shooting and looting their way through much of southern and central Somalia since U.S. and other Western forces pulled out of the country in March.

A total of 20 peacekeepers have died since March, when the 18,700-strong Asian and African army was given a limited mandate to protect

humanitarian work, far safer than the previous task of disarming the clans and enforcing peace.

The Security Council and Dr. Ghali described Monday's attack as "treacherous and cowardly."

In New Delhi, opposition politicians called for the withdrawal of Indian forces from Somalia, but the defence minister said there were no plans to do so at this stage.

"Just because of one incident, the government is not thinking in terms of pulling out its troops," a senior government official told Reuters.

India sent its first U.N. peacekeepers into Somalia in October 1993 and has one of the largest contingents with about 5,000 soldiers.

The killings prompted an outcry from Indian opposition lawmakers who quickly called on Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao to cut the country's losses and pull out the troops.

"The move (into Somalia) was nothing but to aid the American imperialistic designs," Communist Party member E. Balanadan said. "The government should take a national consensus before deputising Indian contingents on such missions."

I.K. Gujral of the Janata Dal Party, a former foreign minister, said the soldiers had given their lives for a cause about which "we have doubts."

"We will not pull out just because some people have been killed," said another senior official. "Our soldiers are doing a good job in Somalia and creating a good name for India."

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